

# Midweek Message

Midweek E-mail from First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, New York

March 20, 2019

The Reverend Robert J. Hagel

Dear Friends,

Lent is traditionally a season of fasting and prayer. During this time, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. As a church, we spend time together hearing about and praying for the ministries of compassion and justice done through our support of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).



Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression and injustice in society.



Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of people, and you will hear about just a few of these individuals over the coming weeks — in bulletin inserts and minutes for mission. These stories will help us to see the face(s) of those whose lives have been changed by our gifts, but they are only a few of the thousands and thousands of people served in this important ministry.

I'd also like to invite you to visit the OGHS website ([www.presbyterianmission.org/oghs](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/oghs)) to find out more information on how your gift helps people all over the world, and offer prayers for the people and projects who receive this support.

That brings me to the challenge, which also relates to our support of One Great Hour of Sharing. While we trust our OGHS programs to respond to the needs of

our most vulnerable neighbors, those programs can only do so to the extent of our generosity. I challenge each of you to give strong consideration to increasing your gift to the offering — you'll see how giving opens your heart to God's work in your own life. So I hope that you'll join us on Easter Sunday, April 21, and that you'll join Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Yours in the love and grace of Jesus Christ,

Bob

### **REMEMBERING YOU IN OUR PRAYERS:**

Gayle Schulte; Norma Willard and her daughters Nancy and Catherine too; Julie Dudgeon; Don Ray; the Berner family mourning the loss of Maureen; Continued healing for Lucille Miller's son Paul awaiting another surgery in April; Lillian walking her final steps of her earthly journey; Joan Battaglin; Gary Martinson; Those dealing with natural disasters and still dealing with the disasters from senseless violence too, and please remember your Session members and church Elders as they work this Saturday to honor our church.

**ACP Student for March:** Lyanna Confere

**Staff Member:** Mark Bush

*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, March 31st**

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

Last Sunday in the Chapel

Worship Leaders for March 31st

Liturgist: Joanne Nelson

Greeters: Peggy Hallberg

Ushers: Diane and Rudy Mueller, Jetta and Mark Wilson

Worship Leaders for April 7th

Liturgist: Melanie Gritters

Greeter: Peggy Ambrose

Ushers: Beth and Bruce Archibald, Bill Johnston and Mark Naeser

# Coming Soon!

## BELL CHOIR!

It's not too late to join. Rehearsals start this Sunday at 8:45 am. They will be followed by Chancel Choir at 9:30 am, and then the Youth choir will rehearse after church until Easter. There will be no Children's choir rehearsal this week, but the next several Thursdays at 5:30 pm the children will rehearse. Come be a part of this wonderful music ministry, especially during the Easter Season.

## *Lenten Prayer Service and Luncheon at Noon*

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.

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.

### Titles from the Lenten Series Coming Up

April 3	Holy Communion
April 10	Have You Forsaken Me?

## Help Wanted:

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago I wrote in the Midweek Message that we would have a cleaning day on April 6 to prepare the Sanctuary for our return on April 7. That will not work. On April 6 at 11:00 am, we will be celebrating Mick Yates's life.

So this Sunday at 5:00pm we will be gathering for a potluck dinner and to clean the sanctuary. Bring your favorite dish to share and let's get our beautiful Sanctuary ready for our return.

Spring cleaning	5:00 – 6:00pm
Potluck Dinner	6:00 – 7:00pm

Peace,  
Bob

**EASTER FLOWERS.** If you would like to honor someone by placing an Easter lily in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, be sure to call the church office by Tuesday, April 16. The cost of a lily is \$10.00 and these Easter reminders will be given to our members who are home bound or aren't able to come to worship to remind them that they are still part of our worshipping community and remembered with love.

## DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Church Business Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

March 27 – TON 3:15 pm

March 27 – Session 7:00 pm

March 28 – Aging and Saging 12:00 pm

March 28 – Children’s Choir 5:30 pm **CANCELLED**

March 28 – Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

March 28 – SCA 7:00 pm

March 30 – Images of Church retreat 9:00 am

March 31 – Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:45 am

March 31 – Youth Choir Rehearsal 11:45 am

March 31 – Youth Group/Church clean up 5:00 pm

April 1 - Healthy Bones Class 9:30 am

April 2 - Duplicate Bridge 12:30 pm

April 2 - Barbershoppers 7:00 pm

April 3 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am

April 3 - Lenten Luncheon/Service 12:00 pm

April 3 - TON 3:15 pm

April 3 - Artist Workshop 6:30 pm

April 4 - Aging and Saging 12:00 pm

April 4 - Children’s Choir 5:30 pm

April 4 - Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

April 4 - SCA 7:00 pm

April 6 - Celebration of Mick Yates Life 11:00 am

April 7 - First Sunday back in the Sanctuary

April 7 - Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:45 am  
April 7 - Youth Choir Rehearsal 11:45 am  
April 7 - Youth Group  
April 8 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am  
April 9 - Christian Education Meeting 12:30 pm  
April 9 - Duplicate Bridge 12:30 am  
April 9 - Barbershoppers 7:00 pm  
April 10 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am  
April 10 - Last Lenten Luncheon/Service 12:00 pm  
April 10 - TON 3:15 pm  
April 10 - Artist Workshop 6:30 pm  
April 11 - Aging and Saging 12:00 pm  
April 11 - Children's Choir 5:30 pm  
April 11 - Chancel Choir 7:00 pm  
April 11 - SCA 7:00 pm  
April 14 - Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:45 am  
April 14 - Palm Sunday Service Beginning of Holy Week  
April 15 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am  
April 16 - Duplicate Bridge 12:30 pm  
April 16 - Finance Meeting 5:00 pm  
April 16 - Barbershoppers 7:00 pm  
April 17 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am  
April 17 - TON 3:15 pm  
April 17 - Artist Workshop 6:30 pm  
April 18 - Maundy Thursday Worship at First Covenant 7:00 pm  
April 19 - Good Friday Service Bellinger Chapel 12:00 pm  
April 19 - Cross Walk, begin at St. Luke's, end at First Pres. 3:00 pm  
April 20 - RISEN: a rock musical at First Covenant 7:00 pm