Honeove Falls, NY

27 North Main Street Box 568 Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 Office Phone - 585-624-2160 Office Email - officefpchf@gmail.com



### Sunday Worship At 10:30 AM



Our service will begin at 10:25AM for announcements, which will be followed by the worship service. You can join us in-person or stream the service on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FPCHF. All are welcome.

We ask that you please turn off your electronic devices like your smartphone or tablet during services in the sanctuary. Turning off these devices helps with our screencasting function - making it easier for those who worship via Facebook. Thank You!

On March 3rd, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper as a congregation. We will be serving the Communion elements and the prepackaged wafer and juice will be available for those who prefer. To those who will be joining us via livestream on Facebook, just a reminder to prepare your Communion elements prior to the service.



#### Palm Sunday (March 24th) - 1030AM Service

Join us for the Procession of Palms with our younger members during our 10:30AM service.

Special coffee hour after the service with an Easter Egg Hunt for the

#### Maundy Thursday (March 28th) - 7:00pM Service

Church Service both in the sanctuary and on Facebook.

#### <u>Good Friday (March 29th) - 615PM</u> Ecumenical Community Pilgrimage

Beginning at St. Paul of the Cross (31 Monroe Street) at 6:15PM and progressing throughout the village to individual churches and ending at St. John's Episcopal Church at 7PM for a brief service and refreshments..

#### Easter Sunday (March 31st) - 7:00AM Service

An outdoor sunrise service in Harry Allen Park.

#### Easter Sunday (March 31st) - 1030AM Service

Church service both in the sanctuary and on Facebook.

Livestreamed Services are available at www.facebook.com/FPCHF

# Inside this Issue: Our Faith in Action - 2

From The Pastor's Desk - 3 Christian Education - 4 Team Reports - 5 Presbytery Report - 6 Community News - 7 Easter Flower Order Form - 8 March Calendar -9 March Worship Leaders -10

#### **Church Staff**

Rev. Kirk Baker, Pastor Cheryl Farnham, Office Manager Adam Lewis, Christian Education Director Michelle LaVarnway, Choir Director Amy Morrow, Bell Choir Director Nadie Miftari, Housekeeper



# Please Check the Church Facebook Page for Updates

Please remember that crucial announcements and worship resources are all available via the church Facebook page. You don't need to have a Facebook account to access the church's page. Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/FPCHF

#### Office Hours

Monday and Tuesday - 8AM - 1PM Thursday - 11AM - 4PM



Set your clocks

forward 1 hour

Saturday night!

# **OUR FAITH IN ACTION**

#### Written by Pastor Kirk

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while it was being prepared he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened...

Acts 10:9-11a

This scene from Acts 10 is crucial to our faith: Peter understood the heavenly vision he received as God's direction to include all gentiles in the first Christian Church. We can also see this as proof that the chief. Apostolic leader had finally absorbed the lessons Jesus gave him, and those lessons changed Peter in big ways. Peter wasn't known for his calm, reflective nature - he was the Apostle who refused to let Jesus wash his feet, then when Jesus gently rebuked him, said, "Not just my hands and feet, Lord, wash all of me!" Peter was an all-or-nothing disciple. He was a man of action, shown by his frequent interruption of Jesus' quiet prayers, stepping out of a boat in the face of a perceived threat, and attempts to "correct" Jesus' teachings so they would be more popular. Yet after Jesus' ascent and the arrival of the Holy Spirit, Peter responded to his hunger in a way befitting Christ. He stopped their journey at the house of supporters, went up on the roof, and meditated. It's quite incredible

As we prepare for the Easter Season, we might consider whether Peter's example fits our own circumstances. Peter and John met wonderful success on Pentecost, but opposition continued to spread. They were arrested for a while; Stephen was martyred, and it was known that Paul of Tarsus hunted down more Christians to execute. Yet Peter continued to practice his faith proactively, such as in mediation and prayer. He showed the same kind of faith in the power of God that Jesus regularly exhibited, trusting God's work would move forward and that it is more important to connect with the Lord regularly than to merely react.

As always, the question is whether or not we share that depth of faith. Personally, I find sitting still and talking to God easy to bypass when I want to react. Like Peter, we face no shortage of challenges. There's division over Israel and an upcoming election where one group is increasingly violent (see the Evangelical Christian Peter French's article on this). These behaviors may be connected to the decline of public Christianity, which removes the standard of Christian behavior from larger conversations. Surely, much Christian action is needed.

And perhaps the first Christian action is a posture of prayer and contemplation. Perhaps I and others - need to first tend to a calm spirit, to ask God to make me whole, to help me work toward a "unified self" before I address the divisions and spiritual decline around me. This is what we saw Jesus do, and it is prominent in His followers throughout the post-resurrection portions of the New Testament.

As we move toward the final season of the Christian year, I invite you to consider redoubling our actions that focus on stillness and quietude. I welcome suggestions for offerings that might do more to calm and strengthen our spirits, especially if those offerings come with collaborative efforts to make them happen. I look to the Season after Pentecost to introduce new ways to develop an "unanxious presence." Perhaps this, more than anything else, is what God's children need right now.

Pastor Kirk

## **More on Healthy Connections**

I thank everyone for their responses to my presentation on strong connections (below) during our Congregational Meeting. I especially thank those who are becoming more involved as a result! The most direct way to strengthen connections is for more people to get involved. In some years too few persons carried very heavy loads. Sometimes that became very stressful, yet people bore extra responsibilities out of love for the church and devotion to Christ. It's important to note that healthy connections also help those who carry those extra burdens.

The budget published in the Annual Report (and in last month's newsletter) is another example of a weak connection. Members couldn't know that the budget reported to Session in December was largely the same as the one in the Report. Yet as the Session minutes show, the deficit approved was a compromise between the inflated one presented out of Finance and the one knowledgeable Elders found more likely. There is an old pattern in play here budget reports have included expenses and simultaneously excluded the giving that covered those expenses (they show up in the cash account reports, though that's not been explained to the congregation). This had a big impact in 2022 when members' donations for

the Seneca Place fire didn't show up on the budget. Though included in the cash statement, that wasn't explained and they were rolled into other giving. That year \$14,700 was also transferred from an existing fund for capital projects to repair roofs that had major leaks; the expense was listed but not the transfer, creating an artificially high "shortfall." Now our Treasurer lists those sources at the bottom of the budget reports, though they are still excluded from the totals presented to members at the Annual Meeting.

The budget Session approved in December showed a more accurate shortfall of over \$41,000 before fund transfer. Fund transfers can safely total over \$14,000, plus the Capital account now holds over \$15,000. Using the figures we have seen play out over the past six years, I expect an actual shortfall of over \$22,000. As in 2019, I am calculating conservatively - I reported a budget shortfall of over \$21,000 to Session then, and the actual gap was around \$19,600 before transfers.

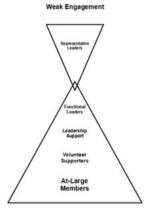
Again, I don't feel this is intentional on the part of any individuals or groups. Rather, the old practice whereby individuals and small groups acted in isolation seems hard for people to shake. This shouldn't be surprising - in 2019 when I commented on the inefficiency of Session, an Elder said they'd operated that way for the thirty years or more he'd been a repeated Elder.. Five to six years is not a long time to change practices established over decades. At the same time, our procedures need to change we can't afford the inefficiencies that existed in the past because congregations are on more precarious ground today. I hope we can be patient and understanding with individuals - who have often done more than should be expected without the support they should receive - and focus on procedures.

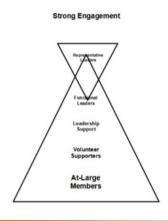
When reports consistently overproject shortfalls by a magnitude of 100 - 200% there is substantial room for improvement. When reports undo Session decisions we see our procedures are not where they should be. The question is: how do we change that? It goes back to the chart below - weak connections can be overcome from the top down and from the bottom up. It's not merely a matter of a few people carrying heavy loads to support the church, it's a matter of everyone seeking better ways of doing things. Members can ask questions during meetings when they don't see donations listed, or when they (cont. next page)

### More on Healthy Connections (continued)

notice the discrepancy between regular predictions of great shortfalls and end-of-year reports of strong financial positions. This is one of the major purposes for holding meetings. For years I've received those questions in private after our congregational meetings. Asking questions openly during meetings means two things: everyone present receives better information, and those offering reports receive feedback on what the congregation needs to know. We all have a stake in fostering strong connections, which benefit not just ourselves, but all who seek to meet God as part of our congregation.

Pastor Kirk





### Worship In March

Resurrection Sunday comes early this year on March 31. During Holy Week, we'll hold our usual Maundy Thursday evening service and work with other churches to carry out the Procession of the Cross on Friday evening, culminating in an ecumenical service. Then on March 31 there will be a community-wide Sunrise Service at 7 AM. As per custom, we will use Lectionary readings throughout Lent and into Holy Week.

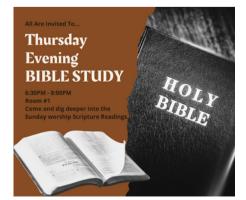


3/3/24	Guest Preacher	Lent	Preacher's Choice	
3/10/24	Repentance Brings Liberty	Lent	Numbers 21:4-9	
3/17/24	Strength to Accept	Lent	John 12:20-33	
3/24/24	God's Appointed Time	Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	
3/31/24	Trust	Resurrection Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	

### Reminder about Campaign Devotionals

Just a quick reminder that there are free, 14-day devotionals about the spirituality of giving for targeted use available at both entrances to the Sanctuary. For some, the connection between giving and spirituality can be unclear; giving as a spiritual exercise for material expenses might be even more puzzling. These devotionals help to make that connection, and remind us all of why God emphasizes giving throughout the Bible.







## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Director's Dish

Written by Adam Lewis Christian Education Director

The month of February wrapped up a long duration of Christian Education collecting for various organizations. It never ceases to amaze me the kindness and generosity of our congregation. February 11th, "Souper Bowl" Sunday, saw a good amount of nonperishable food items come in for the local food pantry. We also received a ton of used shoes that we got to donate during our Mission Trip, more to come on that. Then to wrap it all up, the end of February concluded our annual month long pet supply drive for several of our local no kill animal shelters and hospitals. In a month that is typically very cold, we saw great warmth from peoples hearts with their willingness to give and help others, despite the hardships that many have and are dealing with related to the pandemic. The Holy Spirit truly shined through the folks of the FPCHF. Thank you to all who donated!

As I mentioned, the Middle and High School Youth Group was able to partake in a local Mission Trip again this year at the start of February Break. Thirteen of us were able to go and serve, once again, at Blessed Sacrament to kick off the trip and were also able to work with a new organization this year, "Happy Birthday Cha Cha Cha", a group that provides supplies and birthday presents to children in the city school district. In addition to the mission work, we dovetailed in our new Confirmation Curriculum into the discussions and we're excited to be having Lucy Neff ready to join the church this Spring. It was a great trip and the kids had great reflection and a bunch of enlightening take aways! They will be sharing their experience with the congregation on March 10th, when they will be delivering the message that Sunday! A big thank you goes out to Jen Bianchi, Kim Neff, Barb Altonberg and Bob Richardson for helping Kirk and myself chaperone the trip, we couldn't have done it without them!

As we look ahead to March, you will see the Christian Education team turn it's attention towards the Easter and Lenten season. The youth of the church will once again be helping out during the Easter service, I know they are looking forward to that!

Lastly, I'm excited to share with everyone that CE will once again be hosting the Pickleball Tournament and planning has already begun! Our target date is May 11th, with a rain date of May 18th. This year, we will be teaming up with the "Friends of Borgne" organization to help raise money for the kids of Haiti. If you would like to help with the planning of the tournament or helping to arrange donations for the raffles and silent auction. please let (adamlewisced@yahoo.com ) and I'll make sure to add you to the planning list. This is a great opportunity to work with "Friends of Borgne", a group that we have been trying to collaborate with for a few years now. They do so much to advocate for and help to develop the educational opportunities for families and children in Haiti. Team sign-up will begin very soon, so please consider playing or simply helping out at the event, we're really looking forward to it!



# **FPCHF Parent's Day Out**

Children 4-11 are welcome! Children will enjoy pizza, playing games and crafting.



All adult helpers have had background checks When: 3/16/24 Drop off: 10 AM Pickup: 12:30 PM

Where:
First Presbyterian Church of
Honeoye Falls
27 N. Main St

Please sign up for the Parents Day Out event by 3/1 to ensure enough supplies are ordered.

Sign up here:

https://forms.gle/Ly3fXsNhy4kwoRjJ6.

# **TEAM REPORTS**

#### Finance Team

Written by Margaret Bailey, Finance Team

Late winter greetings from the Finance Team!

Total income from all sources totaled \$43,548 through the end of January, which is more than twice what we had budgeted. Both Pledged Donations (\$26,258) and Unpledged Donations (\$7,175) far exceeded the budgeted amounts as did Temporarily Restricted Donations (\$4,080). We should all feel good about these contributions. The high-level of giving in January corresponds to upfront giving by some who choose to do so at the beginning of the calendar year or the quarter, etc.

Total Expenses for January were \$22,734 compared to a Budget of \$26,867. We expect, however, some higher expenses during the remaining winter months. FPCHF will continue supporting the community through Mission contributions and Deacons Outreach, which are both well under Budget so far. Repairs and Maintenance spending is \$3,014 over Budget due to boiler-related repairs, however many of the improvements covered now would be a much bigger expense if put off. Utilities were \$1,778 for January which was \$428 more than what was budgeted.

Bottom line, through the end of January, we spent far less than our income and our net income was \$18,982.

Our balance sheet continues to support the work of the church. Our Endowment Fund stands at \$284,339, and our Deacons Fund totals \$171,421.

There are several ways that you can give. Besides the traditional envelopes, our Treasurer, Judy Plain, can establish an automatic donation from a checking or savings account. We also have Paypal, and we can work with a brokerage account to accept appreciated stocks. Our membership has always been generous and we hope that you continue to support our church.

February 14 - March 31, 2024

# One Great Hour of Sharing

For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hou of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and

hope.

Interested in giving?

Place One Great Hour of Sharing on the memo line of your check.

> Mission Team







### Stated Presbytery Meeting Report

Written by Martha Kumler Elder Commissioner to Presbytery

January 30, 2024

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. with prayer and a reading of the Land Acknowledgement which recognizes that the presbytery is meeting on the stolen lands of the Haudenosaunee people. The consent agenda, which contained routine business, was approved.

Susan Orr is leaving her job as Transitional Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk on June 6, 2024. In her report she said that, as churches and a presbytery, we need to keep our eyes forward and imagine and dream about what comes next. She said we have the challenge of nostalgia which wants us to go back, to work harder at what we already know how to do – get a new pastor or change the program. Instead, we need to find out who we are now. Churches and the presbytery are in the midst of change. We need to walk forward into the wilderness in front of us and be open to what is next.

Evan Wildhack reported for The Big Picture Team. They are wrestling with what to do between the time Susan Orr and Kathy Coons (Journal Clerk) leave and a Presbytery Leader is hired. There has been some resistance to new ideas and some burn-out among leaders. Two nominating committees have been formed to search for the new full-time Presbytery Leader and a part time Stated Clerk. The Presbytery Leader committee has approved a job description and is filling out the form that will be put up on the Church Leadership Connection website. They expect to begin interviews in March. The Stated Clerk committee has been doing research on how other presbyteries function with a part-time clerk. They will complete their job description this week for a 1/3-time flexible schedule job. They will advertise on several national Stated Clerk organization websites provided by Susan Orr. Because a Stated Clerk is constitutionally required, Susan has agreed to work as Acting Stated Clerk on an "as needed" basis beginning on June 7, 2024 and continuing until a new Stated Clerk is hired.

The presbytery approved its 2024 budget with estimated numbers for the salaries of the Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk.

The presbytery voted to allow the United Church of Warsaw to leave the presbytery and the

PC(USA) and join the United Church of Christ. It was a difficult two-year long process for the Warsaw Discernment Team of the presbytery. From their report: "The relationship between the United Church of Warsaw and Presbytery of Genesee Valley has been fractured for a number of years. The damage to the relationship had been done long before the formation of the Warsaw Discernment Team, though it created a distrustful and an at times adversarial atmosphere in the Warsaw Discernment Team's work." With sadness and some dissatisfaction, dismissing the United Church of Warsaw seemed to be the only option.

A new paid position – Pastor of Leader Care & Development – has been created. The purpose is to guide leader and pastoral care of the presbytery. A Shepherding Working Group of 6 to 12 Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors will be formed to provide support and care for the leaders and pastors of the presbytery. This new person will work 5 hours a week.

During the worship service, there was a memorial tribute to all elders and ministers who died in 2023. There were 73 including Rollo Hoffmeier, Ray Milne, Liz Hayward (Deacon), and Carol Fowler. Thanks were given for the lives of each of them; people who lived lives in faith and service to Jesus Christ.

The presbytery voted to concur with the Presbytery of Mid-Kentuckv's amendment G2.0505a of the Book of Order to change the term of temporary pastoral relationships from 12 months to not more than months. An increasing number congregations are being served by temporary pastor and this change will provide them with more stability. It generally takes more than 12 months from the time one pastoral relationship ends and a new pastor is installed.

The Mission Linkages Working Group invited Olivia Kassoum-Amadou from Cameron Community Ministries to speak to us about all that Cameron has been doing to empower and meet the needs of the Lyell Ave./Otis St. community. This is a difficult neighborhood for its residents because of violence, drug sales and



use, prostitution, poverty, and empty homes. Cameron has an impressive number of support programs for both adults and children in the neighborhood including a new barber shop and barber training program that leads to a barber's license. Wegmans is helping remodel their kitchen where cooking classes are held. There are after school and Saturday programs for children and teens. Cameron is working with the city to clean up blighted properties in the area which attract squatters and crime. Cameron welcomes adult and youth group volunteers as well as donations to their food pantry and clothing closet.

At the top of this report, you will see the new logo for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. The colored crosses represent our congregations who are interrelated, but also each having their own direction. The blue crosses indicate our link to the PC(USA) churches around the country. This logo may be used in any of our communications and a style guide and files are located at https://pbygenval.org/pgv-communication-resources/.

Virtual Congregational Learning Day is March 2nd from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with prayer.



### March Community Meal

Volunteers are needed to help prepare Irish dishes for the March Community Meal on March 17th. Signup to help on the sheet located on the Deacons Bulletin Board in the main hallway. If you have any questions, please contact either Eleanor Sexton, Jane Jezsu, or Brad Rivers.





# St. Patrick's Day Community Meal

### FREE

March 17th - 4:00PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

27 N. Main St., Honeoye Falls

Shepherd's pie, potatoes, Corned Beef, Cabbage, other Irish dishes, carrots and Soda Bread.



Sponsored by the Deacons









# EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

# Easter Flowers

If you would like to purchase Easter flowers, please mail or drop off your order and check (made out to the *First Presbyterian Church* with **Flower Fund** written on the memo line) to the **church office** no later than **Sunday, March 17th**. Or you may drop off your order and payment to **Mark Rowe's hallway pocket**.

Due to the fact that some of our congregation members are <u>severely allergic</u> to the pollen from lilies and hyacinths, we'll only be ordering **tulips**, **daffodils**, and **hydrangeas** for Easter this year so that everyone can worship happily and healthily. Thanks so much for your understanding.

No phone orders will be taken and payment must accompany all orders. Plants may be picked up <u>after</u> the 10:30a.m. Easter service on Sunday, March 31st. If you are unable to pick up your plants. Delivery arrangements can be made by calling the church office.

Unclaimed plants will be delivered to shut-ins.

TULIPS	6 inch pots	\$ 7.00
DAFFODILS	4 inch mini 6 inch pots	\$ 4.50 \$ 7.00
HYDRANGEAS	3+ blooms	\$16.75

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Rowe at <a href="mrowelovesart@yahoo.com">mrowelovesart@yahoo.com</a> or at (585) 704-7948. Thank you.

In Memory of:	
In Honor of:	
Other:	
Given by:	
Telephone Number:	
Number and Type of Plants:	
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$



# MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	a New	Mer les	Le Silve		1 Pastor Kirk On Vacation	2 Pastor Kirk On Vacation
Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Deacons Birthday Coffee Hour Pastor Kirk Vacation	4	Coffee Convo 1PM Manse	6	7 Mission Team 4PM Double Room Bible Study 6:30PM Double Room	Red Cross Blood Drive 2PM - 6:30PM Guild Hall	9
Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Youth Led Worship 10:30AM Fellowship Coffee Hour Membership Team 11:45AM Room #1	Building & Grounds Team 9AM Room #1 Session 6:30PM Room #1	12 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse	Capital Campaign Team 2:30PM Room #1	14 Valley Neighbors 9AM Room #1 Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	15	16 Parent's Day Out 10AM - 12:30PM Guild Hall
17 Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Community Meal 4PM Guild Hall	18	19 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse Worship Team 4:30PM Double Room	First Day or o	Deacons 5PM Guild Hall Bible Study 6:30PM Double Room CE Team 6:30PM Zoom	22	23
Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Egg Hunt Coffee Hour After Worship	Newslester Articles Dur	26 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse	27	Maundy Thursday Worship 7PM	Good Friday Pilgrimage 6:15PM St. Paul's	30
31 Sunrise Service 7AM Harry Allen Park Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM		M	AI	RC	C H	3

First Presbyterian Church 27 North Main Street PO Box 568 Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

