

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



Sunday Worship at 10:30AM

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.

The streaming of the service will begin at 10:15AM. All are welcome.

On April 6th and April 20th, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper as a congregation. We will be serving the Communion elements. The prepackaged wafer and juice will be available for those who prefer for both Sundays. To those who will be joining us via livestream on Facebook, just a reminder to prepare your Communion elements prior to the service.

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!



Palm Sunday (April 13th) - 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

<u>Maundy Thursday (April 17th) - 7:00 PM Service</u>

Church Service both in the sanctuary and on Facebook.

Good Friday (April 18th) - 6:00PM Ecumenical Community Pilgrimage

Beginning at St. Paul of the Cross (31 Monroe Street) at 6:00PM and progressing throughout the village to individual churches and ending at First Presbyterian at 7PM for fellowship and refreshments.

Easter Sunday (April 20th) - 630AM Service

An outdoor sunrise service in Harry Allen Park.

Easter Sunday (April 20th) - 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 - 5-6

Easter Flower Order Form - 7

Community News - 8

March Calendar - 9

March Worship - 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

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Written by Pastor Kirk

"Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.'"

Luke 14:21b-23

These words are from the Parable of the Great Banquet, when Jesus talked about how the guest-list for the Banquet of Heaven would be compiled. He said that it wouldn't be all the fancy, religious leaders at God's Table, because they were too concerned with their own comfort and power to respond to God's invitation. Instead, those who go about spreading Jesus' good news will bring in many new guests! I first learned this passage means I should share the Gospel with unbelievers and nominal Christians.

These memories surface when I consider a new research books on U.S. Christianity gaining attention: The Great Dechurching, by Jim Davis and Michael Graham (2023). The trend they examine is unnerving. While we tend to bemoan the "church decline" since the 1970s, much of that "decline" was actually church attendance patterns returning to historic norms. In contrast, the REAL decline has been over the past twenty years. In that period, 42 million regular churchgoers gave up on church participation entirely. It is the single-greatest change in religiosity in our nation's history (surpassing even changes wrought by the Civil War), and it is the most rapid religious change in our nation's history.

How did this happen? Davis and Graham don't spend time on long-term trends; they're most concerned with what impacted the generations who have rejected church during their lifetimes. However, other researchers note several crucial factors. Mainline churches - especially Methodist, Episcopalian, and Presbyterian - stopped inviting people to church during the national surge in attendance of the 1960s - 70s. Because people joined church even when no one asked them to come, members didn't teach younger adults how to keep congregations strong; they assumed growth would continue

forever. When that growth peaked in 1961 and membership fell in the 1970s - 80s, members asked why prior pastors attracted people and later ones didn't. That was the wrong question: even the poorest preachers saw great increases in membership and the best saw large declines in accordance with national trends. The real difference was that members stopped inviting friends and acquaintances to join them - which is how 80% of new worshipers start attending (Thumma & Bird, 2011).

Another sea-change was the marriage of religion and politics. A generation of ministers attended seminary during the Civil Rights Movement, where they could make a clear connection between Jesus' ministry "liberating the captive and justice for the oppressed." That progressive trend was countered when the emerging Neoconservative Movement needed to find new ways to identify as Christians. They found supporters in outsiders like Pentecostals, Fundamentals, and Mormons, who often equated faith with ultranationalist ideology. The false equation of Christian faith with political ideology drove millions of people out of churches (Pew Research Center, Smith Et. Al., 2019).

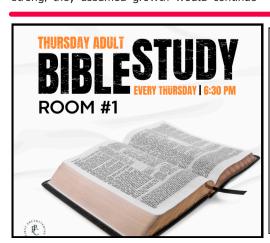
Davis and Graham do note the main way to reach people who feel bruised by the current climate in congregations is to "embrace the fruits of the Spirit." The number one reason the "dechurched" choose to stop attending is closed, exclusive attitudes - in politics, in worship, and in talk about "others." According to these researchers, this was something the Apostle Paul tried to address by promoting the fruits of the Spirit of God, found in Galatians 5:22-23. These behaviors include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The authors point

out this is good advice for every Christian, in every situation. As a Christian minister, I'll concede that it's hard to exhibit these Godly qualities all the time! Yet this is a good reminder to us all (especially me!), as the message is coming through loud and clear: Americans aren't turning away from the church because they're losing their faith. They're turning away from the church because they don't see congregations practicing our faith.

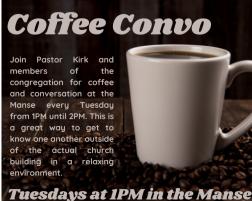
Of course, we could point out that no mortal follows Jesus perfectly so we'd do well not to judge others. Still, when we're in these conversations I find it helpful to talk about norms. We set the norms for our own groups. When certain behaviors are normal, opposite behaviors become exceptions, and vice-versa.

I see our congregation as faithful at practicing the fruits of the Spirit, excelling clearly in love, peace, kindness, goodness, and gentleness. I also find our congregation to be largely nonjudgmental, which is a distinct, Christian character. And I see people inviting others to take part, more and more. At the same time, I see how we are impacted by these large, cultural shifts, and feel it's helpful to be aware of them. The Apostle Paul wrote that he tried to be "all things to all people so that in all possible ways some might be saved" (1 Corinthians 9:22). Knowing which aspects of our God-given characters can help others connect to the Body of Christ is priceless. Knowing what kind of wounds and sensitivities newcomers might carry with them helps us to minister well. And knowing that God cares deeply about every reason any one person stops worshiping helps us to focus on the same things.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Kirk







FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Worship In April

April brings us through Lent, which ends with Holy Week. Holy Week kicks off with Palm Sunday, an upbeat day that's popular with families. Though we focus on the somber Stations of the Cross this Lent, there are celebratory passages sprinkled throughout the Revised Common Lectionary in this season. This reminds us that every Sunday is a "little Easter" no matter what the season may be!

Then on April 20 we have the steady to raucous joy of Resurrection, followed by Easter. While retailers focus on "Easter day" the Christian calendar actually denotes the Sunday after Holy Week as Resurrection Sunday, which is followed by the Easter Season. Easter lasts for fifty days, ending with Pentecost. While there's no one, "right" way to observe Easter, knowing the difference between secular practice and church tradition can enhance our spiritual practice.



4/06/25	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Lectionary	Philippians 3:4b-14
4/13/25	Palm Sunday	Lectionary	Luke 19:28-40
4/17/25	Maundy Thursday	Lectionary	John 13 & others
4/20/25	Easter Sunrise	Lectionary	Luke 24:1-12
4/20/25	Resurrection Sunday	Lectionary	John 20:1-18
4/27/25	Second Sunday of Easter	Lectionary	Acts 5:27-32

What Is a Pastor's Sabbatical?

When I started in ordained ministry some twenty years ago, I had never heard of a "pastor's sabbatical." Yet this has been a practice around the country for decades, and our Presbytery - the Presbytery of Genesee Valley (PGV) - updated a sabbatical policy in 2013, which recommends a sabbatical every seven years. I suspect this is becoming more common as those who have been with congregations through the COVID lockdowns take measures to restore a more balanced ministry. In that period, the normal experience was a dearth of lay leadership and volunteerism, which led to a spike in pastors leaving ministry. The researcher Jim Davis noted two lasting effects of the COVID Era: an embrace of technology in mainline churches (just like us!) and a steady focus on the mental well-being of ordained ministers.

Our Presbytery recommended congregations consider sabbatical leave for eligible pastors in 2023. I passed along this recommendation to our Personnel team then, together with the PGV policy. In October of 2024 Personnel recommended approval of my sabbatical plan, which the Session unanimously supported. While the policy recommends three months, I do worry about my people when I'm away and felt that was too long for me. My plan includes eight weeks, from June 15 to August 10. During that time, there will be on-call, ordained ministers for crisis care, church leaders will organize most Sunday worship, and the Deacons will take turns attending regular spiritual needs.

I will travel to research organizations - including the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life (which set the standard for religious research) and the Public Religion Research Institute; to researchers who publish cutting-edge papers and books; and to the Association of Related Churches, which has successfully supported over 1,300 church start-ups in urban areas. You may know how much I love to read and share from the reams of research on U.S. religiosity today. That's mainly due to one concern; as the great preacher A.W. Tozer said, "American Christians don't go around telling lies; they gather in churches to do that." While he was talking about a decline in Christian theology, the same is true for myths about church practice. Good research casts light on a lot of mistaken assumptions, which are often deeply implanted because we hear those erroneous views in churches all around us.

My travel will be supported by a grant from the Presbyterian Foundation, and of course a part of every sabbatical is a report-out. I hope to hold an event sharing my research (and probably a few Dad jokes) after I return on August 11, and may also be required to hold an event for our Presbytery. I'll share more details on how the church will function while I'm away in future newsletters, but should you have any questions, please let me know.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Director's Dish

Written by Adam Lewis Christian Education Director

As we come out of the winter months, the Christian Ed Team has a lot going on. In March, not only did we focus on the Lenten Season and Easter, but CE took a group to Blessed Sacrament back on March 7th. It was a great experience for the youth and overall very rewarding! It also served as a jumping off point for this year's confirmands. This year Lia Richardson, Nolan Mueller and Alexis Ludwig have made the decision to start the process of joining the church. They met with Session on March 30th to discuss worship elements and will be leading a service in May.

The confirmands will meet for an additional workshop on April 5th, where they will focus on the principles of mission and living out the church. The entire youth roster will also help with the Palm Sunday Procession on the 13th and have the opportunity to help with the Easter service on the 20th. There will be no Sunday School on Easter as we encourage families to worship together.

Our team has also been busy planning and prepping for the Dick Haviland Family Pickleball Tournament. It will take place on May 17th! We are once again partnering with the Friends of Borgne Organization, who help fight and advocate for education of families and children in Haiti. All the proceeds will be donated to them and their mission. wonderful to be able to help raise money for such a cause and it's yet another way we can illustrate to the youth of the church, various ways they can work to help others and change the world! Sign-up is underway and we are very much looking forward to the event! There's still time to volunteer to help with the tournament and or put together a donation basket for the silent auction. If you are interested in helping or would simply like more information, please feel free to contact me at adamlewisced@yahoo.com. Volunteers from FOB will be present the day of the tournament to provide additional details about their cause and answer questions. I encourage everyone to either consider signing up to play, just come and watch others or make bids on the silent auction. Either way, it will be a fun event and full of fellowship!

Blessings to you all!



Spring Mission Opportunity



Camp Whitman is hosting a Spring Cleanup event on Saturday, May 3rd. The youth group would like to organize a group of volunteers to participate in this mission project for the day. There are no age restrictions, but parents must attend with anyone under 6th grade.

If you are interested in chaperoning or if your child would like to participate, please contact Bob Richardson at richardsonbob@gmail.com.

What is Camp Whitman?

Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake is owned and operated by the Presbytery of Geneva and partners with the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. The camp hosts summer overnight programs for youth through its youth camp program. Their Pathfinders program offers overnight camps or "vacation" weeks for youth and adults with developmental disabilities. Camp Whitman also provides retreats for youth, young adults, adults, and families.

Worship & Spiritual Growth Team

Janis McCormack & Gail Worboys, Co-Chairs How Sunday Announcements Serve Christian Worship

What is worship?: Christian Worship is a time "set apart," when we focus with others upon our relationship with God in Christ. Announcements that support the ministry and mission of the Church are beneficial; announcements that are too long, too complex, or include too much detail detract from worship. When announcements are presented well, they can help people prepare to spend time with God.

On average people can remember up to 80% of what they are told in under 30 seconds, up to 70% in one minute, and less than 60% in 90 seconds. When one announcement takes two or more minutes it "steals" listener's retention from all announcements that follow. Here are some ways to keep announcements brief and memorable.

- Prepare your announcement beforehand. Arrange points in a logical progression.
- Use jokes, two-person dialogue, or visuals. Be fun!
- Explain the why, never the "how." People love to support good causes!
- Tell people where to find instructions/sign-up sheets/letters after the service.
- Choose just 2-3 sentences to read from letters/promo materials.
- Use terms first-time worshipers will know. Instead of "in Guild Hall," say "in the fellowship hall, which is through those doors, to the left, then a right and a left."
- Place your mouth directly in front of the microphone and project!

Finding the member in your group who can make memorable, effective announcements is a good way to increase group participation.

Capital Campaign Team

Written by Anne Gravenstede Secretary, Capital Campaign Team

Writing the Next Chapter Together

The Capital Campaign Team has received requests to provide more detailed budget information and timelines for planned improvement projects. The Team is excited to announce that work on Audio Visual capabilities in the sanctuary will begin soon, with both a Video phase and a Streaming phase.

Project Budget:

Applied AV "Video Phase" deposit - \$8,464 (paid)

Applied AV "Video Phase" credit for reusing monitor for balcony - \$501 to be refunded

Applied AV "Streaming Phase" deposit - \$6,512 (to be paid very soon)

Applied AV Labor costs - \$17,200 (to be paid at completion of project, end of June)

Pre-work contractor cost - \$5,000 (to be paid in May)

Computer, chair and misc. cost - \$1,000 (to have available May 1st) Subtotal - \$37,675

Contingency (10%) - \$3,768

Total budget - \$41,442

Session has approved to date - \$19,422

Project Timeline: In May, work will occur in the sanctuary to get ready for the Applied AV work. The targeted complete date for this pre-work is June 1st. The Team has requested that Applied AV set Monday, June 16th as the start date for the project. Be on the lookout for a visual rendering of what the completed work will look like on the Capital Campaign Bulletin Board.





TEAM REPORTS





PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

HFMP Cash Register Receipts Collection

Karen Schiedel, Findley Circle

Most of you know that we promote the collection of Honeoye Falls Market Place cash register receipt tapes. Our friends at Honeoye Falls Market Place give us, as a non-profit, \$1.00 for every \$500.00 in cash register tapes that we turn in to them.

Findlay Circle (not active right now) members have been the coordinators of this program since 1984. When tapes are collected, they are stapled together in piles. Then each tape needs to be added. The subtotal amount before tax is the amount used. Donna McKay represents Findlay Circle and she has been doing the tedious job of adding each tape for the last couple of years. She then makes bundles with a total on each bundle. Then all the bundles are added to create a grand total and they are delivered to Honeoye Falls Market Place. A check is then mailed to Findlay Circle c/o the church. We are proud to say that these funds have been shared with many deserving charities, missions and agencies over the years.

A collection envelope is located on the MISSION bulletin board across from the church kitchen. To help Donna with the task of adding each tape, we have two requests:

- 1. Please stack the cash register tapes in a flat manner and use a paper clip or loose rubber band to hold them. Some have been put in the envelope rolled tightly. They are difficult to unroll to complete the adding.
- 2. Please circle the SUBTOTAL <u>before tax</u> as this is what Donna must find on each tape.

If the collection envelope is full, you can place tapes in the church kitchen with a note that says they are for Findlay Circle or give them to Cheryl in the office.

Please save your HFMP cash register tapes! Thank you!!



Emergency Text Thread

The church is implementing a text thread for emergencies through Breeze (for instance, the cancellation of services due to weather). If you do not wish to be enrolled in the texting system, please contact the church office at 624-2160 or officefpchf@gmail.com, and your name will be removed. The church will take 'no response' as individual consent that you wish to participate.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM



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, April 6th**. Or you may drop off your order and payment to **Jane Jezsu'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, April 20th. 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	\$ 6.75
DAFFODILS	4 inch mini 6 inch pots	\$ 4.20 \$ 6.75
HYDRANGEAS	3+ blooms	\$17.00

If you have any questions, please contact Jane Jezsu at <u>jane.jezsu@gmail.com</u> or at (585) 309-1841. Thank you.

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



COMMUNITY NEWS

Please Adopt Me...

Hi my name is Missy. I am a 11 year old black and white long hair indoor only cat who needs a home. I am an intelligent but sometimes shy lady who enjoys my alone time but also loves sitting next to you an/or in your lap (and I like to purr loudly when I hang out with my human friends/family). I will crawl into your lap for some serious cuddle



time when I am not exploring or napping. Did I mention I am extremely pretty with very soft fur? If you have any questions please feel free to call my human contact — Mark Rowe - Cell - 585 704 7948 or via email - mrowelovesart@yahoo.com



Join Us!

Are you 60 years or older and looking for an opportunity to get together with friends or people in your community?

The newest Ontario County Office for the Aging Community Meal site will begin serving at the *Ionia United Methodist Church on Tuesday, April 8th.*

Meals will be served at 12:15 pm on Tuesdays

Gather a friend or two, or come by yourself and meet people! It's easy to register! You can register for meals with the Food Site Aide, or call the Office for the Aging at 585-396-4040. Once registered, you may call 585-919-2773 to make reservations, or you can let the Food Site Aide know when you plan to dine.









02nd: Lucy Neff

03rd: Patti Moehlmann

05th: Sharon Major

06th: Garrit Coddington

Evan Nestrick

08th: Beverly Luger

Barbara Webster

11th: Bruce Erway

15th: Martha Kumler

18th: Braeden Knebel

Rick Milne

Ryan Sartor

19th: Dick Mueller

21st: Josh Converse

23rd: Barb Mueller

Adam Santucci

25th: Beverly Hillabrandt

26th: Red Baver

Bonnie Coddington

Tom Scheidel

28th: Nancy Merritt

30th: Lynne Menz

*If you don't see your birthday on this list - please let the church office know

so we can update our records*

APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse	2	Mission Team 4PM Double Room Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	4	5 Confirmation Event 10AM - 4PM Tentative
Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM April Birthdays Coffee Hour	7	Coffee Convo 1PM Manse Capital Campaign Team 6PM Room #1	Decorating of Easter Bags 1PM Pinehurst Service 6:30PM Pinehurst Community Room	Fellowship Team 5PM Library CE Team 6PM Zoom Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	11	Fill Easter Bag & Prepare Palms 9AM
Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Easter Egg Hunt After Worship	B&G Team 9AM Room #1 Session 6:30PM Room #1	Generosity Team 11AM Library Coffee Convo 1PM Manse Worship & Spiritual Growth Team 3PM Double Room	16 Membership Team 4PM Room #1	Deacons 5PM Guild Hall Maundy Thursday Service 7PM	Good Friday Community Pilgrimage 6PM Start @ St.Paul's	19
Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30AM Harry Allen Park Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM	May Newsletter Articles Due	22 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse	23	CE Team 6:30PM Zoom Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	25	26
Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Community Meal 4PM Guild Hall	28	29 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse	30		hello	April W

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

