

The First Presbyterian Spirit



FEBRUARY 2012

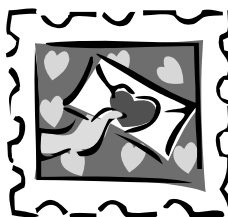
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Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, February 12

We will review the annual report and elect officers. The annual reports should be available in the sanctuary and the church office by the prior Sunday.



Sweetheart Pot Luck Luncheon

Sunday, February 12

Noon

Assembly Room



Deacons Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Assembly Room

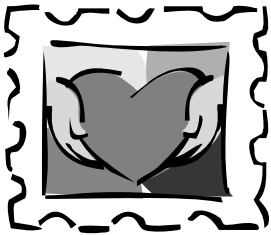


Please help the Brockport Food Shelf!

Due to a 50% increase in families needing help, there is a great need. Please donate food or money.

Message from Pastor Aaron

February Greetings



The end of January and early February is a lull in the Church liturgy. We return briefly to the green of “Ordinary Time” between the white colors of Christmas and Epiphany and the returning purple of Lent. It can also be a quiet relief following the bustling holidays. Finally some snowfall softens the landscape and brightens still-dark evenings. February brings us Valentines Day – a celebration of Love worthy of Christian attention, and this year also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The Deacons are

already planning our pre-Lenten pancake supper for February 21st. This was historically a feast to use up ingredients which would not be needed during the Lenten tradition of fasting. It’s a celebration of a new season starting. Lent is a time of reflection and spiritual “self improvement.” It’s a good time to seriously practice those new years resolutions you made! It’s traditional to “give up something” for Lent to help us appreciate things more, and sympathize with others who do without a luxury we take for granted. Some find it significant to identify even in some small way with the suffering of Christ at his death. I also encourage people to “take on” a practice in addition to, or in place of “giving up.” Take on a book to study – a book of the Bible, or a spiritual topic you are curious about (talk to me – I have many suggestions on my shelves!), carve out fifteen minutes of prayer/meditation time in your day or see how many cards of encouragement you can send out between Ash Wednesday and Easter. All these things usually end up being a blessing to us and others.



I want to highlight a quietly industrious ministry this month which might also be a suggestion for a Lenten Practice. The Knitting Group, started by church member Millie Wiegand, knits at the Sweden Senior Center and in 2011 crafted 515 hats for area cancer patients. Frequently, chemotherapy results in hair loss, and the knit hats help patients with dignity and comfort until their hair grows back. On a recent visit with Millie, she pulled out a bag

of hats and we counted over thirty ready to be mailed. Each hat had its own color and knitting pattern. Some solid, some with stripes, some with unique textures from different knit and pearl patterns. Millie spoke of individual knitters, some experienced and many learning. You can hear the pride in her voice when she talks about the progress they are making. The yarn all comes from donations. The knitters themselves are sometimes able to come up with supplies, but they go through a lot of yarn! They always need donations to keep up with the group’s busy hands. Do you have any yarn at home going unused??? Also needed are funds to help with the shipping costs. Millie ships the hats to several area cancer centers: The Wilmot Cancer Center, Presbyterian Hospital in NYC, Brockport Cancer Center at Lakeside Hospital, Highland Hospital, Rochester General, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Millie is also glad to help out aspiring knitters who knit at home as well. Please pray for this group and consider helping out with a donation, or with learning a new skill!

Blessings to you, Pastor Aaron



Winter Event Cancellation Policy

If there is a significant snow event, please tune into Channel 13 WHAM news on-line, on TV, or on the radio to find out if worship, rehearsals or other events will be happening. Decisions for cancellation fall upon the church staff, officers or committee chairs involved. During the week we generally follow the lead of Brockport Schools. So if day classes or evening events are canceled at school, we will do likewise. Generally if there is a travel advisory, we recommend that you stay safe and warm at home.

There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved. It is God's finger on man's shoulder.

~Charles Morgan

Contacting Pastor Aaron

My office hours will mostly coincide with Caitlin's availability in the church office. This way we can have the building unlocked more often with both of us there.

- **Monday and Wednesday:** 9 am - noon
- **Tuesday and Thursday:** 2 - 4 pm
- **Friday** is my day off. However, please feel free to contact me in an emergency.

Home Visits and Home Communion: Please let me know if you would like a visit, or to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at home.

I am also available by appointment as needed. Monday and Tuesday nights are good times to schedule with me in the early evenings before meetings. Saturday is often a meeting or special event day with Presbytery. The best ways to reach me Friday – Sunday is by cell phone, email, or in church on Sunday.

Please also call my cell phone **585-278-6365** to reach me any time. Please leave a message if I can't answer. I also "text" message, so feel free to exercise your thumbs if you choose!

Purchase Sunday Bulletins



If you are interested in purchasing bulletin covers in honor/memory of loved ones for an upcoming Sunday service, call the office.

Bulletin covers cost \$14 per week.

Provide Flowers for Sunday Services



Flowers are a wonderful way to celebrate or remember special people or events.

Sign up on the Flower Chart outside the church office or call the office.

White Gift Report

November and December are the Deacons' busiest months as we plan for three major events, one of them being the White Gifts ministry. Through this ministry we provide gifts and gift cards to families and seniors who are unable to purchase gifts for their families, who are housebound or who just don't have families close to them. White Gift Sunday was held on December 11, 2011 and we delivered gifts to six families and eleven seniors at Royal Gardens. The congregation was extremely generous this year as we collected about \$1200, in addition to the donated gifts! Not only did we provide to the families and seniors the gifts and gift cards we planned on, but we were also able to purchase hams for the families. We were also able to give money to the Oak Orchard center to help families for which they could not find sponsors. The Deacons cannot thank the congregation enough for the support you give to our ministry!

~Submitted by Dan May, Moderator of Deacons

Infatuation is when you think he's as sexy as Robert Redford, as smart as Henry Kissinger, as noble as Ralph Nader, as funny as Woody Allen, and as athletic as Jimmy Connors.

Love is when you realize that he's as sexy as Woody Allen, as smart as Jimmy Connors, as funny as Ralph Nader, as athletic as Henry Kissinger and nothing like Robert Redford - but you'll take him anyway.

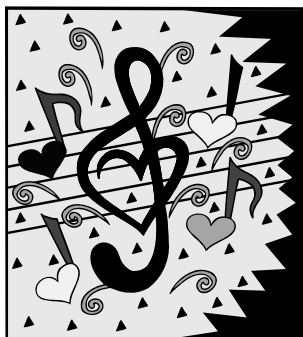
~Judith Viorst,
Redbook, 1975

Save the Dates! Spring Rummage Sale is April 22-28

Now that the holidays are over, you may want to make more room for all of your wonderful new presents by cleaning out some of your gently used items that you no longer want. The church will accept those items at any time. Simply place them behind the library shelves in the Assembly Room.

As always, we will need as many people as possible to help make the Rummage Sale go smoothly.

~Submitted by Alice Sykes



Youth Music Choirs: Cherubs and Carolers

Cherubs in Pre-K - 1st grade practice Sunday morning from 11-11:15 am — Perform April 8 and May 13

Carolers in 2nd grade - teens practice Sunday morning from 9:15 to 9:45 am — Perform February 12, March 11, and May 13

Please be sure to arrive to church by 9:30 am on performance days.

~Submitted by Tricia Crissman, Youth Music Director



Growing Faith

CHILDREN

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15-11 am • Lower Hayes Hall • Pre-K to Grade 5

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

- **Carolers** (2nd grade to teens) practice Sunday at 9:15 am
- **Cherubs** (Pre-K to 1st grade) practice Sunday 11-11:15 am

Contact: Tricia Crissman, Youth Music Director at 964-7926

YOUTH CLUB: 5th-9th Grade (5th graders are welcome to join!)

- Saturday, Feb. 4 • Middle School Musical • 7 pm
- Sunday, Feb. 12 • Bring "snow" clothes and stay after the luncheon for some snow fun!
- Tuesday, Feb. 21 • Hoppers at Pancake Supper • 5:30-7 pm

Contact: Christina Lesniak at 278-7450

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

BIBLE STUDY

Monday, Feb. 13 • 9 am • Church Parlor • We'd love to have you join us as we view and discuss the video "Matthew — Jesus the Jewish Messiah." This is the sixth video in a collection relating to the New Testament.

BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP

Monday, Feb. 27 • 8:30 am • in front section of 58 Main • Come for breakfast and fellowship.

Contact: Sandy Ritz at 352-1784

MEN

BREAKFAST & DEVOTIONS

Monday, Feb. 13 • 8:30 am • 58 Main

Contact: Brian Richardson at 395-9476

ADULTS

BIBLE STUDY

Sundays • 11:15 am-Noon • Church Parlor

Contact: Rick Miner at 964-2081

THE "TUESDAY" LUNCH BUNCH

2nd and 4th Tuesdays • Noon lunch and fellowship at area restaurants.

Contact: Jean Moore at 637-4357

But I always think that the best way to know God is to love many things.

*~Vincent van Gogh,
Dear Theo: An Autobiography of
Vincent van Gogh, 1937*



♥

**Sweetheart
Pot Luck Luncheon**

♥

**Sunday, February 12
Noon
Assembly Room**

♥

**Valentine's Day kindles a
loving spirit in all our hearts.**

**Whether you crave something sweet
or savory, mix up a delicious concoction
you will love to share with others!**

**We will celebrate the season of
Cupid and his arrows with dinner
in the Assembly Room.**

♥

Sponsored by Congregational Life Committee

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious
or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist
on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it
does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in
the truth. It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things. Love never
ends. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these
three; and the greatest of these is love.*

~Selections from 1 Corinthians: Chapter 13

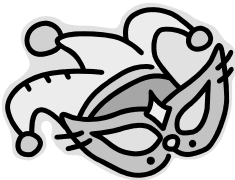
**Annual Deacons
Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**



**Tuesday, February 21
5:30 - 7:00 pm
Assembly Room**



**Bring your friends, family,
and neighbors along!**



**Adults \$4
Kids \$2 (under age 8)
Families \$10 total**

Gluten-free pancakes will be available upon request.



**Sponsored by
the Deacons**

***“Life has taught us that love does not
consist in gazing at each other but in
looking outward together in the same
direction.”***

*~Antoine de Saint-Exupéry,
Wind, Sand and Stars, 1939,
translated from French
by Lewis Galantière*

Church Historian

The Civil War, 1862-2012

The Union received some much needed good news with the surrender of Fort Donnelson on February 16, 1862. The fort, on the Cumberland River in Tennessee, fell to army and naval forces under Ulysses S. Grant, his first major victory. The news was celebrated in Brockport. As reported in the local weekly, "Our citizens went in spontaneously for an impromptu jubilee over the glorious tidings. A huge bonfire of dry goods boxes and kerosene oils barrels was built on Main Street opposite Market; then all the village church bells were rung upon a lively strain. The bonfire and the bell ringing drew together a large crowd, composed in about equal parts of men, women, and children." Many patriotic speeches were delivered "to the cheers of the assembled throng." "No portion of the gathering was more enthusiastic, than the ladies present, over the triumph gained."

On a related note, the paper reported that "In accordance with the President's proclamation, the anniversary of Washington's birth will be observed in this village on Saturday next at the Presbyterian Church, at 10 o'clock A.M., when Hon. Jerome Fuller will read Washington's farewell address. [Fuller was a Brockport attorney and former member of the state legislature.] There will be other exercises. The choirs of the several churches and the public generally are invited to attend."
~David Hale, Church Historian

McGrath College Scholarships for Business or Elementary Education

Applications are due to the Margaret A. McGrath Charitable Foundation by March 1.

Two types of scholarships are available to the residents of the Towns of Sweden and Hamlin.

- The Philip and Margaret Dollard Business Scholarship is awarded to qualifying college students who major in Business.
- The Marie Dollard McGrath Elementary Education Scholarship is awarded to qualifying college students who major in Elementary Education.

Qualifying 2012 graduating high school seniors and current college students are encouraged to apply.

For information contact Richard Dollard, Executive Director and Trustee at 585-637-7170 or refer to the foundation's web site at www.frontiernet.net/~mcgrathfound/scholarshipfund.htm

~Submitted by Peggy Hale

FOOTPRINTS... A New Version



Imagine you and the Lord Jesus are walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying the pace. But your footprints are a disorganized stream of zigzags, starts, stops, turnarounds, circles, departures, and returns. For much of the way, it seems to go like this, but gradually your footprints come more in line with the Lord's, soon paralleling, His consistently... You and Jesus are walking as true friends!

This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: Your footprints that once etched the sand next to Jesus' are now walking precisely in His steps. Inside His larger footprints are your smaller ones, you and Jesus are becoming one. This goes on for many miles, but gradually you notice another change. The footprints inside the large footprints seem to grow larger. Eventually they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints. They have become one. This goes on for a long time, but suddenly the second set of footprints is back. This time it seems even worse! Zigzags all over the place. Stops. Starts. Gashes in the sand. A variable mess of prints. You are amazed and shocked. Your dream ends.

Now you pray, "Lord, I understand the first scene, with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But You walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with You."

"That is correct."

"And when the smaller footprints were inside of Yours, I was actually learning to walk in Your steps, following You very closely."

"Very good. You have understood everything so far."

"When the smaller footprints grew and filled in Yours, I suppose that I was becoming like You in every way."

"Precisely."

"So, Lord, was there a regression or something? The footprints separated, and this time it was worse than at first."

There is a pause as the Lord answers, with a smile in His voice.

"You didn't know? It was then that we danced!"

~Submitted by Anita Mault



Knitting Group: Hats for Cancer Patients Wednesdays 10 am - Noon - Sweden Senior Center

All ages are welcome and drop-ins are encouraged.

Come and join us for some fun!

Call Millie Wiegand at 395-0289 if you have questions.

Thank You

I wanted to thank everyone for their donations to Santa's workshop. Children had a great time shopping for their parents, siblings and friends.
Thank you again.
Vivian May

Dear Deacons,
I was so pleased and surprised with the beautiful blanket you made for my mom. You touched her heart. Thank you for your kindness.
Sincerely, Diane Shapiro
Doris Draper's daughter

Dear Peggy,
All of us at People's Ministry would like to thank you for the Bibles and Daily Breads that your church donated to People's Ministry. I'm sure they will be a blessing to many. We thank God for you!
In His Love,
Your friends at People's Ministry

Sweden Senior Center

Sweden Senior Center activity sheets and menus are located by the front door and outside the church office door.

Visitors of any age are always welcome to visit the center.

Meals are by reservation two weeks ahead.

Call 637-7588 for reservations or cancelations.

Transitions

Entering the Church-Triumphant

Florence Pletsch
Died December 16, 2011

Ron Wiegand
Died December 23, 2011
Memorial Service:
February 20 at 11 am

Dot Magley
Died while visiting
Jim and Judy Long in Oregon

New Members: The Lesniak Family

Please welcome Greg and Christina Lesniak and their family.

Greg is educated as a Hydrogeologist and works at Popli Engineering and Design as the Environmental Group Manager.

Christina is educated as a Recreation Therapist and works as a water fitness instructor, lifeguard, swimming and diving referee, and substitute teacher.

Greg and Christina were married at First Presbyterian in 1993. They have lived in Toledo, OH; West Chester, PA; Endwell, NY; and Albany, NY.

Their three daughters are:

- **Lindsay**, 13, is in 7th grade at the Oliver Middle School
- **Victoria**, 9, is in 4th grade at the Hill School
- **Isabelle**, 7, is in 1st grade at the Ginther School

They live at 448 East Avenue in Brockport and their home cell is 278-7450.

Pastoral Concerns

Prayer List: Occasionally we rotate names off the prayer list who have been on for awhile. Sometimes this is a hard call when there may be long-term conditions affecting a loved-one. We will gladly replace or add any new names. Please speak to Pastor Aaron or call the church office.

Members: Health concerns: Ileen Preston, Mary Miller, Betty and Joe LaManna, Charlene Whipple, Beverly Bates, Andrea Rizzo, Alisha Allison. Also, George and Sue Campbell's daughter-in-law, Alyssa Wilson -- for unresolved health concern, Holly and Ted Sheehan -- adoption, family of Ronald Wiegand.

Friends: Tyler Banker and Ryan Zamiarski, Kevin Allison, Gail Behrens, Vicki Howell, father of Jim Hastings, Steven Goodberlet, Heidi Banser, Holly Stewart's brother and family, the Crawford family, Ron Kruger, family of Tim Kimball, Joan Rands, Shirley Sroka, Alyssa Wilson, Barb Sabatini, Chris and Laurie Winslow, Tom Faulkner, Lynette Bellow, Bob and Ken Strayer, Kalman Toth, Roger and Lynn Richardson, Diane Burritt, Karen Bigger, Gary Hayes, Mary Fessenden, Robin Malone, Graham Andrus, Rex Johnson, Ellen Ricks, family of Mary Ann Dames, Gary Zastrow, Paula Starling-Jones, Sharon and Carl Wheat, Ruth Burgess, Jack Humm, Jimmy Reader, family and friends of Ken Bibby, Beth Wadhams Petrino, Jamie Herrmann, Dr. Emad Phillobos of Cairo, Eduoard Champion, family of Jack Noel, Brenda Emery, Greg Pelletier, family and friends of Dot Magley.

Active military duty: Nick Ornt, Danny Tozer, Daric Barkee, Heidi Fyfe Stewart, Chad Brannon, Steven Hampshire, Joseph Storms, Cody Hill, David Hurn.

E-Letter News

Subscribe to the E-Letter mailing list!

Send an email with Subscribe in the Subject field to: hastings@firstchurch14420.org

The Spirit Newsletter

Submit content to Beth Dickinson at bdickinson@rochester.rr.com; 391-3225; or in Newsletter mailbox at church

You can also view ***The Spirit*** newsletter online on the church website.

Our Church Calendar is now online!

With an internet connection you may now check our church calendar from our website. Go to the church website at:

<http://firstchurch14420.org/>

At the top of the website, click on the Calendar link to view the calendar:

Use the toolbar at the top to navigate through the year:

Send us feedback for how this is working!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

35 State Street
Brockport, NY 14420

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT #84

BROCKPORT, NY 14420



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am - noon
Tuesday and Thursday: 2 - 4 pm

Phone: 585-637-3780

Fax: 585-637-5053

Office email: officefpc@frontiernet.net

Pastor email: aarondoll@frontiernet.net

Church website: www.firstchurch14420.org

Presbytery website: www.pbygenva.org

Presbyterian Church (USA) website: www.pcusa.org

OUR STAFF

Aaron R. Doll, Pastor

Caitlin McGrath, Administrative Assistant

Vicky Miner, Minister of Music

Tricia Crissman, Youth Music Director

Scott Maar, Bookkeeper

Roger Meiers, Sexton