

Twins Talk

March 2023

Worship - Sunday 10 AM
Sunday School - during worship
(Sep-Jun)

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Pastor's Corner

Greetings from the Frozen North!

Ms. Winter has returned with features like heavy snow for the home-bound journey Ash Wednesday, ending after a 10" snowfall, followed by freezing rain when it was 19 degrees just to seal the deal. But she is absolutely beautiful and a little awe inspiring!!

Last Sunday we talked about discovering the "Awe and Wonder" in our daily lives as a simple, accessible way to enhance our faith lives. In today's Washington Post is an article written by neuroscientist Richard Sima entitled "An Illustrated Guide to Feeling Happier, Every Day" in which he writes:

"It probably won't surprise you that feeling joy is essential for flourishing, and while you might expect to feel joy from big events, science says the small moments matter, too. By mindfully tuning in to the pleasant experiences of everyday life, we can transform an otherwise mundane moment into something more joyful." - And experience their power to inspire awe.

In the coming weeks our Lenten services will explore "Seeking."

We don't have to seek God - God is all around us. Rather we will seek clarity, wisdom, focus, and practices that will help us access more joy and more of the love that makes us whole. You are invited to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking with your fellow travelers by asking questions, by staying curious, open and nimble. Be willing to soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives.

Along the way we will sing a song to two, gather smiles, experience community, say an occasional prayer and gently come to know how awe and wonder can inspire our faith lives. And it's all free! Steve

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love each other, God lives in us!" 1 John 4:12



- Elder Commissioner to Presbytery Meetings - Gaby McGhee has volunteered to attend the meeting in March, and Janet Lanning will attend the May meeting. We need someone to attend the meetings in September and November. *(Since the meeting, Karen VanGorder has volunteered to attend the Sept and Nov meetings.)*
- Ash Wednesday Service was held at 6:00 on February 22.
- We would like to provide the worship service online but need a small team of volunteers to take turns recording the service each week.
- \$226 was raised on Souper Bowl Sunday for the Foothills Food Pantry.



Baptism of Wesley Adam DePalma, February 19, 2023.
Presented to Pastor Steve Vance, the church family, and about 20 members of the Beasley clan by parents Sarah and Shawn DePalma, and big sister Nola.

Fellowship



&
Coffee

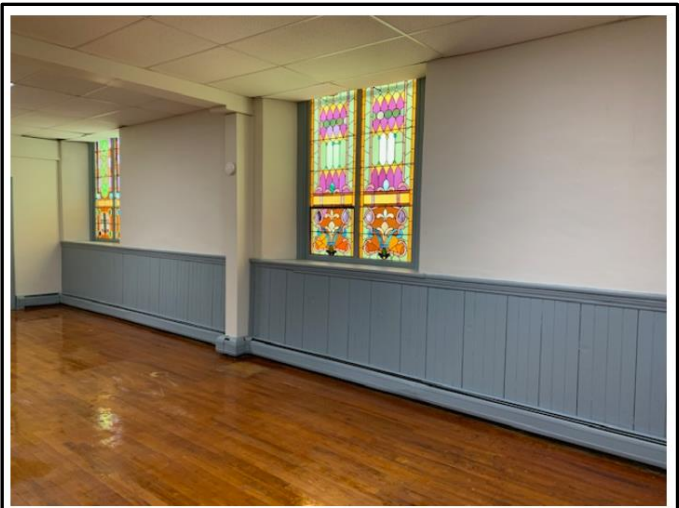
Sign Up Today

We love to socialize and eat!
It's so disappointing when coffee hour is cancelled because no one signed up.
Contact Peg Curtacci (315-867-7898,
pcurtacci.1947@gmail.com) or
Janet Lanning (jlasc@me.com)

Presbytery Meeting Notes January 24, 2023

Presbyterian Home, New Hartford, NY

- A Worship Service was offered by Reverend Rhonda Chester, new chaplain of the Presbyterian Home
- From the COM of the Presbytery: All votes passed
- Peg Ward was assigned to moderate the session of Three Voices Parish
- Mike Yeoman was assigned to moderate the session of Waterbury Memorial Presbyterian Church
- Accepted and approved the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Sue Riggle as pastor of New Hartford Presbyterian Church (Ed Townsend - Interim)
- At a regular meeting on January 12, 2023, the Committee on Ministry voted to approve the request for waiver of limitation of Elders terms of service from Westminster Moriah Olivet and First Presbyterian Church of Utica
- Approved the dissolution of the of Whitesboro Presbyterian Church
- The commissioners to the 225th General Assembly will report on a proposal to address voting on proposed amendments to the Book of Order. A 7 pg summary of the report is available upon request. The booklet (135 pages) providing a full description of all amendments is also available if you are desperate.
- Ms Betsy Jay was honorably retired from service as a Pastor; however, she will be the presiding Moderator for Utica Presbytery for 2023.
- At the Regular meeting of the Trustees of the Presbytery on January 5, 2023 \$12,500 in MICAH



Boy Scout James Houck took on the task of painting our Fellowship Hall for his Eagle Scout Project. With assistance from his parents Natalie and Jim, along with fellow scouts and parents, he did himself and his troop proud! Our Hall looks amazing - so fresh, clean and bright!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Worship Schedule

Mar 5 Steve Vance - *Communion*

Mar 12 Larry Beasley

Mar 19 Steve Vance

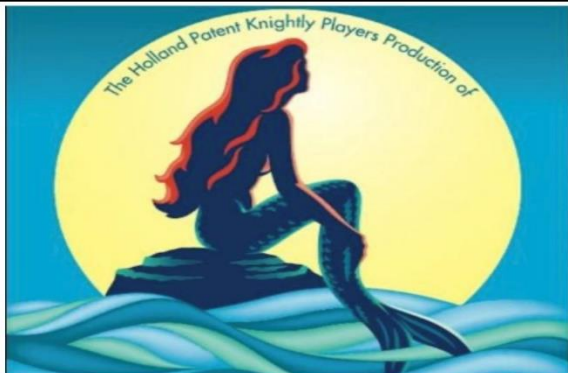
Mar 26 Bonnie Tryon

Events

Mar 3-4 School Musicals HP & Whitesboro

Mar 18 Park Coffee House – Heartbeat Duo

Mar 25 Don McGhee Funeral Service



The Little Mermaid

7 p.m. Friday and Saturday

March 3 and 4

at Holland Patent High School

Steubenstock is Back!



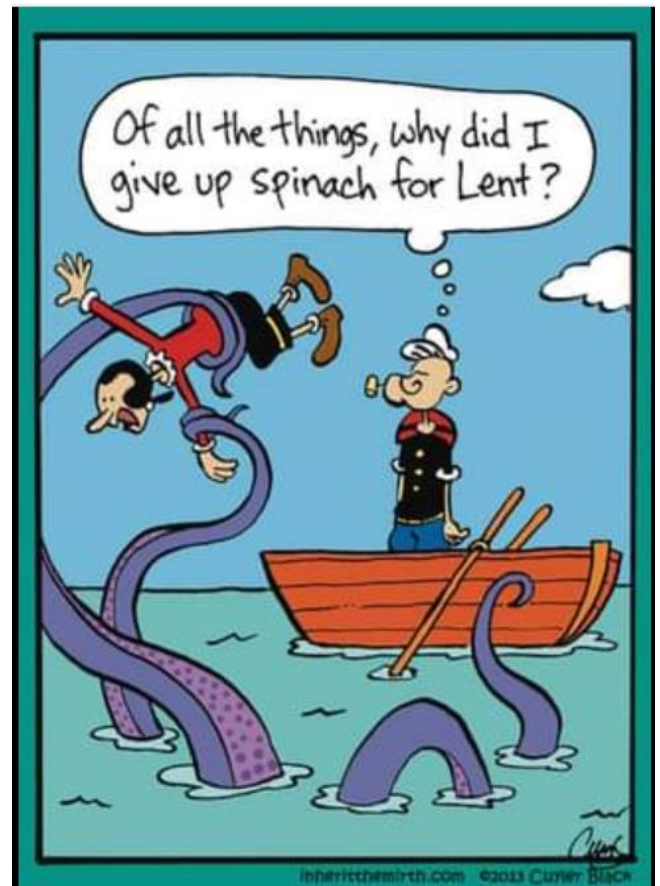
April 29, 2023

Look for details in the near future!

March

- 2 Megan Hinge
3 Ebony Finn
4 Geri Gates
Paul Mueller
John Niedzielski
5 Kerry (Allen) Welcome
6 Ryan Meade (Jessica Aubry's husband)
8 Bob VanGorder
10 Lawson Condrey
11 Evan Grenier
12 Todd Finn
13 Ian Phillips
16 Elias Vannicola
19 Virginia Kelly
Joe LeBuis
20 Gary Harvey, Jr.
21 Gavin Doell
23 Taylor (Beasley) Fitzgerald
Marcia Jones
24 Trace Finn
26 Ryan Bliss
28 Hailey Carnright
31 Joanne Gates
Harry Finn
Dwight & Gail Putnam (A)

Birthdays & Anniversaries



bits & pieces

Prayers are asked for:

- Bob VanGorder who had surgery on his foot for the second time. Prayers that he follows his doctor's instructions...non-weight bearing for six weeks.
- Gail Brett's mother, Elaine Hompesch, passed away on February 16.
- Muriel Werbovetz is quite ill, and Carl is recovering from pneumonia.
- Brenda Capodiferro's husband Jim is recovering well from heart bypass surgery.
- Don McGhee passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at home on February 22. His funeral will be on March 25 at the church.
- Mable Converse has a small fracture in her back.
- Harry Finn has COVID.

Joys shared for:

- Anna Beasley and her husband Patrick will welcome a new baby in the spring.
- Betsy Allen's grandson Charley was chosen to go to a wrestling tournament in Bulgaria where future Olympians compete.



Session Retreat Notes

On Saturday, February 18 the Session met for a 5-hour retreat of discernment and discussion. Our purpose was to create a time to open our hearts and minds to issues that are difficult to explore in detail during our regular monthly meetings. Our rules were simple: be happy, be creative and know that all comments or ideas would be discussed positively without judgement. It was a day filled with good thoughts and camaraderie.

Our meeting centered on two points for discussion:

- The state of our Church now
- The potential state of our Church in 5 years

The following notes are neither exhaustive nor comprehensive but offer an overview of the day.

Our Church Now:

- We are satisfied with the nature of our services and the direction of our spiritual lives.
- Our music program continues to be a cornerstone of our church experience.
- The decisions made over the last two years, most importantly our choice to utilize a part-time pastor, have allowed us to maintain a positive financial position in the face of declining active members, friends and contributions.
- We seem to take care of our inner community rather well but are not as effective at reaching beyond our church walls to embrace and support those in the larger local community.
- Our organization has not recovered from the Covid break and we are tired.

Our Church in 5 Years:

- Assuming we still like our services and spiritual lives, the present organizational model will allow us to remain together as a practicing church although savings will need to be used to balance our financial obligations. However, any major problems with the building would impact our financial position.
- The loss of Foothills as a resident and tenant will impact our finances and our building's future.
- We do not see our membership/friends numbers growing and probably continuing to decline.
- It is our nature to want to help others and hope we can actively address this desire.

Action items:

- It was our consensus that the most effective and efficient way to expand mission work outside our walls is to more actively embrace Foothills. They reach out with a myriad of programs, they need volunteers and we want to be more present in our larger community. This seems a natural fit and direction. Conversations with Foothill's staff will begin immediately focused on our working together more closely.
- We will track Foothill's progress diligently, so we know their departure date well in advance.
- Further discussions will develop potential uses for the space currently occupied by Foothills.
- We would like to grow our music program any way we can to enhance our lives and the use of our facilities.
- We would like to foster the use of our facilities for non-church related activities, bringing in new groups, new faces and new friends.
- We will review and reassess our present committee organization in an effort to allow more people to participate in our missions and activities.

We welcome your constructive comments anytime please. We would ask for them in writing to facilitate communication and discussion. Or please become a member of a committee - full-time or part-time!

We see a bright and continuing future for the Twin Churches that honors both our past and our future desires.