

February 2024



# THE BELL TOWER



The First Congregational Church, Spencerport UCC  
65 Church Street Spencerport, NY 14559



2024 Newsletter

*Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.*

~Pope Francis

## The Power & Promise of Lent

Lent is such an important time in the life of the Christian Church. I was not fortunate enough to grow up in a Church that honored Lent. I did not begin to honor it until later in life. Lent is a 40-day journey from Ash Wednesday leading up to Easter excluding Sundays, because Sundays are considered *celebration days*.

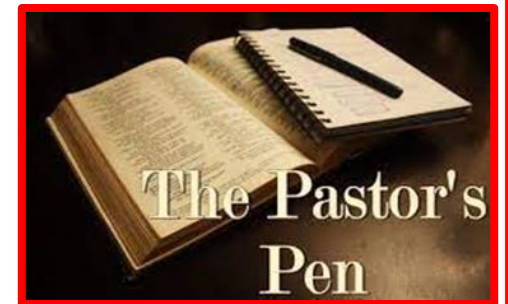
Lent is a time when we as Christians take a long hard look in the mirror. We look in the mirror to discern the following: *Where we have been? Where we are? And where we are going?* We do this discernment work through prayer, personal and group reflection, fasting, small groups (that will take place on Wednesdays), and by reading and listening to Scripture, among other ways.

Another thing that Christians do during Lent is to attempt to tackle ongoing issues, addictions, patterns, etc. that keep popping up in their lives.

Furthermore, during Lent this year, as a congregation, we will be taking a journey through the book entitled *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill J. Duffield. We will meet every Wednesday evening in Lent to discuss various aspects of the book.

**It is my hope that you will join us for this amazing journey leading to Easter morning.**

*Pastor Michael L. Sloan*





**FINANCE BOARD ZOOM  
MEETING**

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7:00 PM Via Zoom

February 2024



**COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS**

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:30/7:00 PM  
HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM



**UPCOMING DATES:**

Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – @ 9:30 am:  
Women's Guild Meeting  
Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch  
Following Worship Service



**LENTEN GROUP STUDY 2024**

Zoom/Facebook Live

**Dates/Times:**

1. Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7 p.m.
2. Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 7 p.m.
3. Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7 p.m.
4. Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6 p.m.\*\*
5. Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Please contact the office @ (585) 352-3448 or  
[admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org) if you have any questions.





February 2024



**WARM FUZZY TREE**



### ARE YOU A WIDOW? OR, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS A WIDOW?

**NAOMI'S CIRCLE:** Naomi's Circle will meet on the following dates through May. The second Thursdays of the month. Thursdays, February 8<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. Naomi's Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a light luncheon and a conversation on widowhood. Please bring a small dish to share. If you have any questions, please contact the office @ (585) 352-3448 or [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org) The group is open to anyone that is a widow. Members can attend as a support person in the group if needed. Naomi's Circle is dedicated to providing a safe place for widows/widowers to express themselves, freely, about how widowhood has impacted their lives.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR PART IN THE WARM AND FUZZY TREE

Submitted by Holly Bauer-Mergen

Because of your contributions (and efforts in soliciting contributions), I delivered 80 mittens/gloves, 46 hats, 23 scarves, 28 socks/sock packages, and 9 blankets (which filled the back seat of my car) to Saint's Place for the refugees they are serving. They were very grateful for the donations and noted that more families are continuing to settle in Rochester. (While not exclusively, they have been serving many Afghan refugee families resettling in the area.) So, THANK YOU again!

### MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>.

If you would like to submit an article for The March Newsletter, please email the church office at [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org), By February 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



Please call or email the office if you would like to include any information, special news, or occasions into the weekly FlockNote or our monthly newsletter. Thank You!





## BREAKFAST CLUB



## Breakfast Club

### FEBRUARY DATES/LOCATIONS

February 6<sup>th</sup> – Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.)  
February 13<sup>th</sup> – Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave.)  
February 20<sup>th</sup> – Original Steve's Diner (3240 Chili Ave.)  
February 30<sup>th</sup> – Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)

February 2024

## FEBRUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### GREETERS:

4 – TBA  
11 – TBA  
18 – TBA  
25 – TBA

### COFFEE HOUR:

4 – TBA  
11 – TBA  
18 – TBA  
25 – Kim Mowers

### USHERS:

4 – Karen Eysaman  
11 – Karen Eysaman  
18 – TBA  
25 – TBA

### LAY READERS:

4 – Ellen M Kern  
11 – Kim Mowers  
18 – TBA  
25 – TBA

**\*\*IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH ANY OF THE WEEKENDS LABELED TBA PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN FELLOWSHIP HALL OR CONTACT THE OFFICE @ (585) 352-3448 OR [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org).\*\***



### OFFICE HOURS

**\*Temporary Office Hours Change\***

Monday 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
Tuesday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Wednesday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Thursday 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
Friday Office Closed

**Pastor: Rev. Michael L. Sloan, D. Min.**  
**Cell: (309) 262-6543**  
**E-mail: [pastor@spencerportucc.org](mailto:pastor@spencerportucc.org)**

**Administrative Assistant: Paula Jackson**  
**Office: (585) 352-3448**  
**E-mail: [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org)**

## COMMUNITY

*Please join us!*

### SEM CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

We need a Congregational Representative (Lay Person) to represent the First Congregational Church, Spencerport UCC with SEM, Spencerport Ecumenical Ministry. SEM is an ecumenical group in Spencerport made up of Clergy and Non-Clergy to address the needs of the Spencerport Community as a whole. If you would like to represent the First Congregational Church as a Congregational Representative, please contact Pastor Michael or contact the Office.

Thank you!

February 2024

## FCC MUSIC MINISTRY

### *Praise Band*



*UPDATE*

## MUSIC News

## CHOIR



### FCC CHOIR PRACTICE'S AND SUNDAY'S IN FEBRUARY

Choir Practices are Thursdays,  
**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 pm.**

The Choir will perform during worship service on  
**Sunday, February 4<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.**

\*The Choir will alternate Sundays with the Praise Band. Rehearsal will be 7 pm the Thursday prior to the Sunday performance and 9 am on the Sunday of performing. \*

### PRAISE BAND SUNDAY'S IN FEBRUARY

The Praise Band will perform during worship service on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. The Praise Band will continue to perform every other Sunday alternating with the Choir.

The members of the band include:

Mark Schott, guitar

Doug Schott, drums

Mark DiNitto, bass

Darcy Colby, vocals

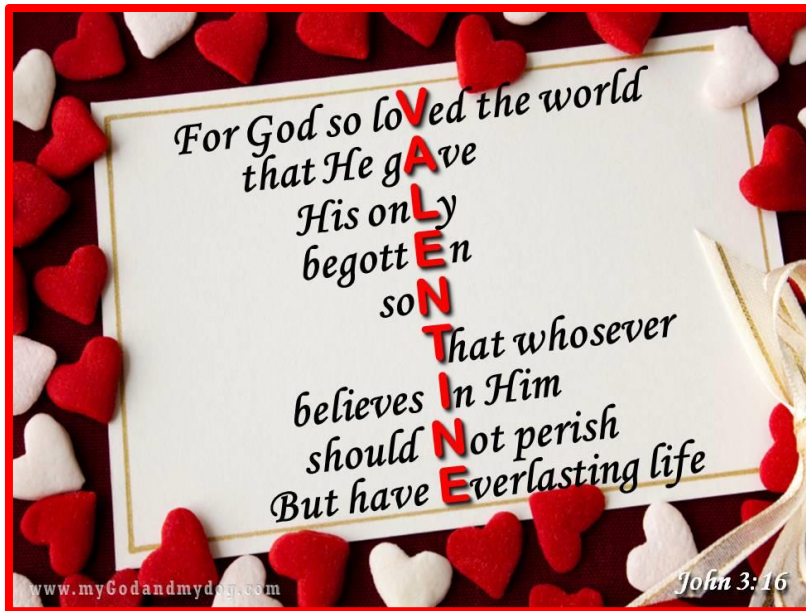
*I will sing to the Lord  
as long as I live*



## THANK YOU

February 2024

I wish to thank you for the cards of prayerful thoughts, Sunday morning food and food from my guardian angels C & R.  
~Melva



HAPPY  
Valentine's  
Day

## CHRISTIAN ACTION

### Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf

Thank you for your continuing and generous support to the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf.

This month, the following items are especially needed:

Coffee, Hot Cocoa Mix, Cold Drinks, Hot Cereal, Canned Tomatoes – crushed, diced, and whole, Rice, Rice A Roni, Hamburger Helper, Cake Mix, Muffin Mix, Crackers, Mac/Cheese, Ramen Noodles, Pudding, Jello, Kleenex, Shampoo and Cleaning Products.



A bin is available in the Fellowship Hall to drop off your donations.

If you know of anyone residing in the Spencerport School District, in need of food, they can call 397-0290.

Cash donations can be sent to Tom Olney, Food Shelf Treasurer, 26 Ogden Parma Townline Road, Spencerport, NY 14559. Checks should be made out to the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Questions or concerns: Contact Melanie Ippolito at 352-3891.





## MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

February 2024

First Congregational Church,  
Spencerport UCC  
February



*Anniversaries  
and Birthdays*

Please wish a  
Happy Birthday To:

17<sup>th</sup> - Pat Witt

28<sup>th</sup> - Jesse Diehl

Pat & Jesse, your Church Family Wishes you a very  
Happy Birthday!  
Gods Blessings!

**\*\*Please send Paula your Birthdays and Anniversaries  
so, we can celebrate together! (information below) \*\***



### MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Let's celebrate each other! We would like to include special dates in The Bell Tower Monthly Newsletter. Please send us your Anniversary or Birthday (without year) to be included in the monthly newsletter, please contact the office at (585) 352- 3448 or Admin@spencerportucc.org.

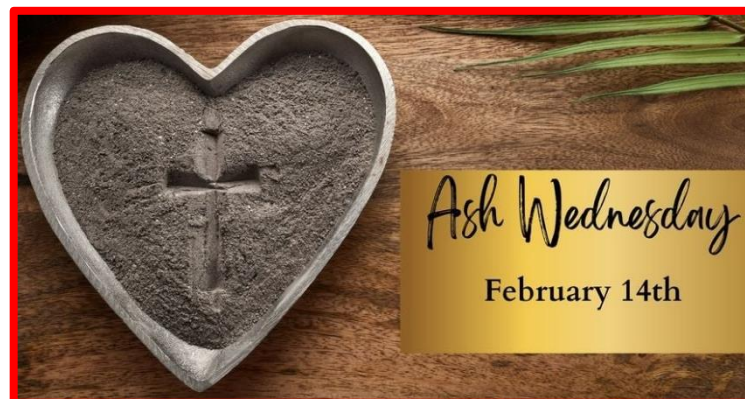


### NEEDLES MISSION CLUB

Submitted by Holly Bauer-Mergen

Many thanks to those who contributed to the creation of the 25 blankets/lap robes and 12 hats. Blankets go to Wilmot Cancer Center and the Spencerport Dialysis Center; hats go to Roswell Cancer Center. Our hard-working team includes Pat Cielinski, Cheryl Ellsworth, Sue Nichols, Ginny O'Keefe, Marilyn Kiesling, Shirley Snetsinger, and Gwendolyn Tappenden (and me). Sandy Saylor has also recently joined the ranks of our team! The blankets are knitted and crocheted, and fleece blankets were recently added by Cheryl (see her for instructions). Thanks again!

(P.S. New team members always welcome, whether you knit, crochet, or sew.)



# ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

H F D J Z A S H W E D N E S D A Y H R R  
 N O A G O O D F R I D A Y J E S B O E E  
 G O L P A S S O V E R P A S F O R L S S  
 T T M Y B M F J E S U A J A C K A Y U U  
 N W S P S G O L O V E L E C E D N T R R  
 N A G R F A R L P A L M B R A N C H E R  
 J S I A A F T P L Y E S E I S O J U S E  
 C H V Y S O Y U J Y N U A F T A E R U C  
 J I I E T R D R R M T N S I E H S S S T  
 A N N R I H A P W D J D T C R X U D W I  
 N G G C N O Y L W E A A E E Y G S A Z O  
 W E D N G L S E H O L Y W E E K H Y C N

Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love






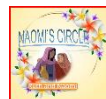






February 2024

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
SPENCERPORT UCC  
FEBRUARY 2024**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	
			3pm – SEM @ FCC 7 pm-Choir Practice	*Office Closed*	9:30 am – Women's Guild Meeting - Fellowship Hall 	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing Lunch Bunch Following Worship	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting -Fellowship Hall	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.) 7 pm - ALANON	7 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	Noon – Naomi's Circle 	*Office Closed*	
11	12	13	ASH WEDNESDAY 14	15	16	17
10 am-Worship / Praise Band Performing	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting -Fellowship Hall	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place) 7 pm – ALANON	Noon – Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service- OBC 7pm-Zoom Finance Board Meeting Happy Valentine's Day! 	7 pm-Choir Practice	*Office Closed*	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing	*Office Closed for Holiday* 6-8 pm Rotary Meeting -Fellowship Hall	9 am– Breakfast Club @ Steve's Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave.) 6:30/7 pm – Council/Boards Meeting 7 pm - ALANON	MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7pm – Lenten Program 			
25	26	27	28	29		
10:00 am-Worship Praise Band Performing	6-8 pm Rotary Meeting -Fellowship Hall	9 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.) 7 pm – ALANON	7pm – Lenten Program	7 pm-Choir Practice		

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
65 Church Street  
Spencerport, NY 14559-1311



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**  
**Telephone: (585) 352-3448**

**Web site: [www.spencerportucc.org](http://www.spencerportucc.org)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SpencerportUCC](https://www.facebook.com/SpencerportUCC)**

**Pastor: Rev. Michael Sloan (1-309-262-6543 - cell)**

**E-mail: [pastor@spencerportucc.org](mailto:pastor@spencerportucc.org)**

**Administrative Assistant: Paula Jackson**

**Office Hours: 9:00 am-2:00 pm – Monday-Friday**

**E-mail: [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org)**

**Music Director: Darcy Colby**

**E-mail: [musicdirector@spencerportucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@spencerportucc.org)**

**Accompanist: Lindsey Williams**

