



January 2025 Newsletter



January 2025



THE BELL TOWER



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



One day, the great physicist, Dr. Albert Einstein, was travelling from Princeton on a train. The conductor walked down the aisle, punching the tickets of each passenger. When the conductor came to Einstein, the great physicist had the most puzzled look stamped all over his face. Einstein could not find his ticket. He placed his hand in his jacket pocket. It wasn't there. He placed his hand in his vest pocket. It wasn't there. He then placed his hand in the pockets of his trousers. It wasn't there. Suddenly, Einstein smiled and said, "Aha!" He reached down underneath the seat, grabbed his briefcase, opened it—and to his surprise...the ticket wasn't there either. The conductor said, "Dr. Einstein? I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. So, don't worry about it." Still puzzled over the matter, Einstein nodded his head, thanked him for his consideration, and took his seat. The conductor continued his task of punching tickets, moving from one passenger to the next...until he got down to the end of the car. Right before the conductor moved on to the next car, he turned around and saw Einstein, on his hands and knees, looking underneath the seat for his lost train ticket. The conductor rushed back to him and said, "Dr. Einstein? I told you! We know who you are! Don't worry! You don't need a ticket!" Einstein looked up at the conductor and said, "Yes. I understand that you know who I am, and I know who I am as well. But, unless I find my lost train ticket, I won't know where I am going..."



Periodically, in life, we can lose our train tickets (i.e., our reason for being, our purpose, our destination, etc.). It is so easy to get stuck in a rut, in unhealthy patterns, and routines. January is always a good time to pause and reflect on—What we are doing? Why we are doing it? And where we are going? Without pausing periodically to reflect on our purpose, we will become like mice on a wheel—just going around and around in circles. So, let me encourage you to pause, think, reflect, and refocus. By doing this it will help you in gaining clarity and a new set of eyes for the road ahead.

Happy New Year!

~Pastor Michael L. Sloan

January 2025



BREAKFAST CLUB

JANUARY DATES/LOCATIONS

- January 7th – Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.)
- January 14th – Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave.)
- January 21st – Original Steve's Diner (3240 Chili Ave.)
- January 28th – Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.)



FINANCE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, January 15th @
7:00 PM Via Zoom**



COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 21st @
6:30/7:00 PM HYBRID – Zoom
and In-person

- Sunday, Jan. 5th – Lunch Bunch
- Saturday, Jan. 11th – 9:30 am
Women's Guild Meeting



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 1/22

Annual Reports are
due to the office
by January 22ND



BABY SHOWER UPDATE

The Baby Shower for
Pastor Michael and Ebony's
Twin girls date will be
January 5th following
worship.

Registry: My.babylist.com



SAVE THE DATE:

October 5, 2025 Church 175-year Celebration.
More information to come!

JANUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

5 – TBA
12 – TBA
19 – TBA
26 – TBA

COFFEE HOUR:

5 – Lunch Bunch/**Baby Shower**
12 – TBA
19 – TBA
26 – TBA

USHERS:

5 – TBA
12 – TBA
19 – TBA
26 – TBA

LAY READERS:

5 – TBA
12 – TBA
19 – TBA
26 – 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****

THESE DAYS

Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

THESE DAYS DEVOTIONALS

These Days Devotionals for January, February & March are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or by the elevator. If you would like it mailed to you, please call the office @ 585-352-3448 or email: admin@spencerportucc.org

January 2025

Pastor: Rev. Michael L. Sloan, D. Min.
Cell: (309) 262-6543

E-mail: pastor@spencerportucc.org

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

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

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

OFFICE DATES CLOSED:

JANUARY:

Wed., January 1st – New Years Day!
Mon., January 20th – MLK Day!

Thank You

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I would like to thank all the members for their prayers, cards, visits, phone calls and food as I recuperate. This is taking longer than I anticipated but ---- hopefully there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks again.
Betty Anne



The New Year

is almost here...

My prayer for you all:
A relaxed Mind, a Peaceful Soul, a Joyful Spirit, a Healthy body, and a Heart full of love.

I wish you a **Happy New Year**

with many **Blessings** to You and your Family.

Amen



UPDATES:

Please remember to contact the office to add or remove anyone from the prayer list. admin@spencerportucc.org (585) 352-3448

CHRISTIAN ACTION

January 2025

First Congregational Church, Spencerport UCC JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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:

UPDATED 12/30: Canned Pasta Sauce, Hot Cereal, Jams and Jellies, Coffee, Cake Mix, Brownie Mix, and Toothpaste.

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.



Please wish a
Happy Birthday To:
Jan Elliott 1/7!
Jan your Church Family
Wishes you a Very Very
Happy Birthday!
Gods Blessings!

Please wish a
Happy Birthday To:
Ellen M Kern 1/29!
Ellen your Church Family
Wishes you a Very Very
Happy Birthday!
Gods Blessings!

Please wish a
Happy Birthday To:
**Charles "Chuck"
Stage 1/12!**
Chuck your Church
Family
Wishes you a Very Very
Happy Birthday!
Gods Blessings!

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.

When the Hilton Schools are closed due to weather conditions, the office may not be staffed. Please call ahead before coming to be sure someone is here (585) 352-3448. We will always try to send out and email notifying everyone, but it is always best to call first.

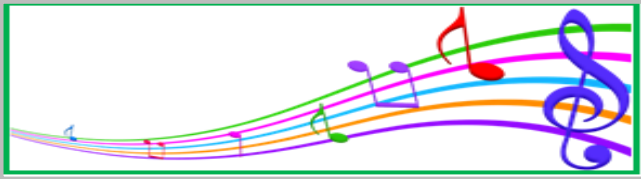


Please call or email the office if you would like to include any information, special news, or occasions into the weekly FlockNote or our monthly newsletter. Thank You!



January 2025

FCC MUSIC MINISTRY



Praise Band



UPDATE



PRAISE BAND SUNDAY'S IN JANUARY

The Praise Band will perform during
worship service on Sunday,
JANUARY 12th & 26th.

The members of the band include:

Mark Schott, guitar
Doug Schott, drums
Mark DiNitto, bass
Darcy Colby, vocals
Dori Swarthout, keyboard



Choir for Performing Gobble
Gobble for Thanksgiving!



CHOIR SUNDAY'S & REHEARSAL IN JANUARY

The Choir will perform during
worship service on
Sunday, JANUARY 5th & 19th.

****Rehearsal will be 7 pm the Thursday
prior to the Sunday performance and
9 am on the Sunday of performing. ****

January 2025

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS 2024



GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

BY:

Alison Diehl

Jesse Diehl

Wendy Colby

Chuck Colby

Carol Eichorn

Barb, Jean & Sue

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

BY:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Mosbrugger,
Lynn, Richard & Baby Ricky Neubauer & Annabelle Brown

Laurie Neubauer

Ross & Marilyn Vasbinder

Julie Nelson

Reta Colby & Collette Colby

Chuck Colby

Mr & Mrs. Floyd (June) Crosby

Roger & Charlene Schurkamp

Mr & Mrs. William (Marion) Schurkamp

Roger Demmin (Father) & Daryl Lynn Martin (Sister)

Darcy Colby

Todd Saylor (Our Son)

Sandy & Al Saylor

Warren & Mary Ann Hewes

Sue & Frank Nichols

All Those of my Family gone before me

Olive Simons

Florence & Arthur Pastor

Bunny Tubbs

Bud & Norma Bauer, Hazel & Chet Crawford,
Ray & Edna Burroughs

Holly Bauer-Mergen

My Husband, George Eysaman &
My Parents

Karen Eysaman

Kathy Eichorn, Richard Eichorn,
Fran & Mamie Eichorn, Albert & Hazel Merkel,
Janice Wittner

Carol Eichorn & Family

The Symbolism of the Poinsettia
(also known as the Christmas Star or Christmas Flower)

It's said that this winter flower's association with Christmas comes from a Mexican legend that a child, with no means for a grander gift, gathered humble weeds from the side of the road to place at the church altar on Christmas Eve. As the congregation witnessed a Christmas miracle, the weeds turned in to brilliant red and green flowers.

While considered by the ancient Aztecs to be symbols of purity, in today's language of flowers, red, white or pink poinsettias, symbolize good cheer and success and bring wishes of mirth and celebration.





January 2025

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
JANUARY 2025**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			NEW YEARS DAY!! 1	2	3	4
			OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm – Zoom Bible Study	7 pm-Choir Practice		
Epiphany Sunday 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am – Choir Practice 10 am-Worship /Choir Sunday *Communion* Lunch Bunch/ Baby Shower – Following Service		9 am– Breakfast Club @ Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.) 7 pm – ALANON	7:00 pm – Zoom Bible Study	3 PM – SEM Meeting @ Ogden Pres.		9:30 AM - Women's Guild Meeting
1 st Sunday After Epiphany 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 am-Worship / Praise Band Performing		9:00 am– 9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place) 7 pm – ALANON	6:00* pm – Zoom Bible Study 7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	7 pm-Choir Practice		
2 nd Sunday After Epiphany 19	MLK DAY 20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 am – Choir Practice 10 am-Worship /Choir Sunday	**Office Closed** 	9:00 am– Steve's Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave.) 6:30/7 pm – Boards/Council Meeting 7 pm – ALANON	FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 			
3 rd Sunday After Epiphany 26	27	28	29	30	31	
10 am-Worship / Praise Band Performing		9 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny D's (2139 N. Union St.) 7 pm – ALANON		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
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SpencerportUCC
Pastor: Rev. Michael Sloan (1-309-262-6543 - cell)
E-mail: pastor@spencerportucc.org**

**Administrative Assistant: Paula Jackson
Office Hours: 9:00 am-2:00 pm – Monday-Friday
E-mail: admin@spencerportucc.org
Music Director: Darcy Colby
E-mail: musicdirector@spencerportucc.org
Accompanist: Emily Cao**



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