

January 2023



# THE BELL TOWER



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



## January 2023 Newsletter

### A Dream Deferred

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up  
like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over—  
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags  
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, while strolling the blistering cold streets of Chicago, I stumbled upon a used bookstore called “After-Words Bookstore.” I remember walking in the bookstore and being smacked in the face with the strong scent of used books. As I perused through the various books, I came across a book entitled *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman. I flipped through the pages and somehow stumbled upon the following:

Where there is no dream, the life becomes a swamp, a dreary dead place and deep within, a [person's] heart begins to rot. The dream need not be some great and overwhelming plan; it need not be a dramatic picture of what might or must be someday; it need not be a concrete outpouring of a world-

shaking possibility of such fulfillment. Such may be important for some; such may be crucial for a particular moment in human history. But it is not in these grand ways that the dream nourishes life. The dream is the quiet persistence in the heart that enable a [person] to ride out the storms of [their] churning experience. It is the exciting whisper moving through the aisles of [the person's heart] ...It is the ever-recurring melody in the midst of the broken harmony...Keep alive the dream; for as long as a [person] has a dream in [their] heart, [they] cannot lose the significance of living.

Dreams. Hopes. Aspirations. Desires. Ambitions. They are tricky little things, aren't they? On one hand, like a film playing across the screen of our imaginations, we can see the pictures of what we desire so clearly, so precisely, so accurately. On the other hand, when we pinch ourselves and come to the realization that there is a huge gulf between the burning desire of our heart and reality, like 250-pound man stepping on the toy of a toddler, our dreams can become crushed; swept up into the dustpan; and thrown in the trash.

In the year 2023, maybe it is time for us to put on some rubber gloves and dig deep into the bottom of the trash to retrieve and restore those crushed dreams. Because dreams are like seeds planted deep in the soil of our hearts, that give us the drive to keep going; to keep pushing; to keep living; and even to keep getting out of bed, morning after

morning and day after day. Like Howard Thurman said, these dreams don't have to be some earth-moving aspiration. It can be something as simple as helping to make sure a grandchild walks across the stage with a college degree in their hands. It can be something as simple as you re-visiting (and completing) a project that you abandoned 10, 15, or 20 years ago. It can be something as simple as you learning a second language: Spanish, Dutch, Mandarin Chinese, or even Ukrainian. It can be something as simple as starting a support group for empty nesters. It can be you becoming a foster parent; or tutoring students at a low-performing school. Regardless of what it is, don't stop dreaming. Because once you stop dreaming, you stop living. It is the dream that lives in our hearts that give us a reason to get out of bed in the morning. It is the dreams that are etched in our hearts that cause of to smile, even when dark clouds threaten to rain on our parade.

I'm going to leave you with this question: In the year 2023, which one of your crushed dreams do you plan to retrieve from the bottom of the trash can?

Keep this in mind: It's never too late to be what you might've been or to do what you should've done.

Happy New Year!

*Pastor Michael L. Sloan*

January 2023



Join Us After Worship

1/8/23\*, 2/5/23 & 3/05/23  
Soups, Salad & Bread



**COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS**  
Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM  
HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM



**FINANCE BOARD  
ZOOM MEETING**

Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7:00 PM Via Zoom



The Office will be closed on  
Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
Monday, January 16 in  
observance of the Holidays.

**THESE DAYS**

"These Days" Daily Devotional Booklets for January/ February/ March are available on the First Floor outside the Elevator and in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like one sent to you, please call the office at (585)352-3448. If you like a devotional and unable to find one please call the office so we can update count needed.

**THESE DAYS**

Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

## BREAKFAST CLUB



### JANUARY DATES/LOCATIONS

**January 1<sup>st</sup> - Slayton Place**  
(26 Slayton Ave. Spencerport)

**January 8<sup>th</sup> - Town & Country**  
(3205 Chili Avenue)

**January 15<sup>th</sup> - Theo's Restaurant**  
(1174 Brooks Ave.)

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Johnny d's Restaurant**  
(2139 North Union St.)

**January 29<sup>th</sup> - Blue Ridge Grill**  
(3400 W. Ridge Rd.)



**Thank you to all** who were involved with the **Christmas Brunch** --- from planning, to preparing, decorating, serving and clean up. **Delicious food and wonderful fellowship** --- just delightful. **Thanks!!!!!!**





### UPCOMING DATES:

No January Meeting

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am: Meeting

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am: Meeting



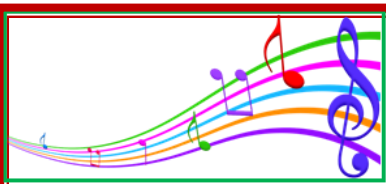
### WOMEN'S GUILD IS HAVING A BOOK SALE!

Women's Guild will be hosting a Book Sale in April 2023 and we would like your books. If you have books you need to clean out to make room for new books you can drop them off at the church Monday thru Friday from 9AM to 2PM or on Sunday morning.

OR

Call the church office (585-352-3448/ M-F 9-2) to arrange to have them picked up.

January 2023



FCC  
MUSIC MINISTRY



THURSDAYS @ 7PM  
& SUNDAYS @ 9AM



### ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT NAME TAGS



*PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR **NAME TAGS**. WE ARE PLEASED TO BE WELCOMING NEWCOMERS TO OUR SERVICES AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO WE ARE. (AND PLEASE REACH OUT AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF – SINCE WE'RE STILL DOING 'PASSING OF THE PEACE' FROM OUR SEATS, THERE ISN'T THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO SAY HELLO!)*

**Upcoming dates for Sunday School:**

- 1/15 Sunday school
- 1/29 Sunday school
- 2/12 Sunday school
- 2/26 Sunday school

Over the holidays, there will not be any Sunday School.

The upcoming schedule for Sunday School is:

- 1/15, 1/29, 2/12 and 2/26.

We are actively recruiting for a Christian Education Coordinator and will resume normal weekly Sunday School schedule when that person is in place. We appreciate your patience.

Wishing you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Board of Christian Education  
Marion Morton, Len Ippolito and Sue Bagley

\*\*\*\* Helpers in Sunday School classroom are needed. If able to help on a Sunday, there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall\*\*\*\*



**WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE ANNOUNCED**

First Congregational Church - UCC Spencerport is engaged in an ongoing effort to support the needs of students in K-5 at Rochester Academy Charter School (RACS). RACS is a free Charter School (K-12) with students from all over Monroe County. It boasts a high school graduation rate of 94%.



Heather Eysaman, Elementary school Principal, indicates many of the children attending this school do not have appropriate winter wear for our cold Rochester winters.

In response to this need, First Congregational Church is pleased to announce our community-wide collection of warm winter gear for the children. This includes new or gently used coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves and boots in children's sizes 6 - 16.

Mike Montesalvo, owner of Lamont Trophies and Sporting Goods, responded to our plea and generously donated 100 pairs of children's mittens. Mike acknowledged there are so many needs in the community this time of year and he was very happy to support our endeavor.

Additionally, the Davison Foundation has graciously donated \$2500 to support the effort.

The generous residents of Spencerport and neighboring communities are being asked to consider this project when evaluating their Holiday donations.

Collection boxes are located at the following businesses in the Spencerport area:

- Aire Serve, [14 Amity St.](#)
- Tops Friendly Markets, [21](#)
- [Union St.](#) Coffee House, [123 So. Union St.](#)
- Hartsfield Hometown Garage, [164 Lyell Ave](#)
- Mary Lobene Hunt Realty, [85 So. Union St.](#)
- Wolf Mechanical, [5353 West Ridge Rd.](#)

School supplies are also an ongoing need for the school. Donations of supplies can be dropped off at these collection points too.



First Congregational Church wishes our community Happy Holidays and asks God's continued blessings on you and your families.

January 2023

DECEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

- 1 – Pat Witt
- 8 – Ginny Worden
- 15 – Sue & Frank Nichols
- 22 – Betty Anne Riley
- 29 – TBD

COFFEE HOUR:

- 1 – Sue & Frank Nichols
- 8 – **Lunch Bunch**
- 15 – TBD
- 22 – TBD
- 29 – TBD

USHERS:

- 1 – Karen Eysaman
- 8 – Betty Anne Riley
- 15 – Betty Anne Riley
- 22 – TBD
- 29 – TBD

LAY READERS:

- 1 – Ellen M Kern
- 8 – Gwendolyn Tappenden
- 15 – Carolyn Mazzota
- 22 – TBD
- 29 – Gwendolyn Tappenden

**USHERS, GREETERS, LAY READERS, HELPING HANDS AND COFFEE HOUR HELP NEEDED:**

If you are interested in volunteering your time, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or you can call the office at 352-3448.  
Thank You!



**CHRISTIAN ACTION**

*Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf*



Thank you for your continuing and generous support to the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf. A special thanks to those

of you who donated Thanksgiving Turkeys!

This month the following items are especially needed:

**pudding, Jell-O, Cold Drinks, Coffee, Cocoa, Ramen Noodles, Hot Cereal, Pancake mix, Shampoo, Deodorant, Toilet Paper, and small to medium bottles of Dishwashing Soap.**

Cash donations can be sent to Dick Gallagher, the Food Shelf Treasurer at: 425 Ogden Parma Townline Road, Spencerport, NY, 14559.

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.

Questions or concerns: contact Melanie Ippolito at 352-3891

The Food Shelf is in constant need of sturdy corrugated boxes to pack food for delivery to clients.

**Size: Approximately 12X8 -18X12,** with or without lids. Please save any suitable boxes you might have and leave them underneath the table where the donation bin is located in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



January 2023

*A Very Special  
"Thank You!"*

I would like to send a very special thank you out to everyone that helped, sent words of encouragement, advice, love and prayers to me while I was out having surgery in December. You are all a Blessing to me! God Bless & Happy New Year!

~Paula Jackson~

The one who blesses others  
is abundantly blessed;  
those who help others  
are helped.  
Proverbs 11:25



**MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES**

Let's celebrate each other! We would like to start including 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](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org)



**Church Office hours:**

**Monday- Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Pastor: Rev. Michael L. Sloan, D. Min.**

**Office Hours:**

**Tuesday – Thursday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
IS JANUARY 18TH**

If you would like to submit an article for The December Newsletter, please email the church office at [admin@spencerportucc.org](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org),

by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!



## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS 2022**

### **GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:**

Our Parents

Warren Hewes

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

Parents, Grandparents, Sister & Brother

Granddaughter Ashleigh Church

LeRoy & Florence Vasbinder, Ross Vasbinder &  
Lewie & Claire Sady

My Father, Frank S. Cremaldi

Daryl Lynn Martin (Sister)

Richard Eichorn, Hazel Merkel,  
Fran & Mamie Eichorn

My Husband, George Eysaman & My Parents

John Snetsinger (Father) & Barbara Harris (Sister)

Tom Schauman

Florence & Arthur Pastor (Parents)

Grandparents

### **BY:**

Tom & Carol Coburn

Family & Friends

Holly Bauer-Mergen

Len & Melanie Ippolito

Lyn & Ginny Worden

Julie Nelson

Paula Jackson & Family

Darcy Colby

Carol Eichorn & Family

Karen Eysaman

Wendy Vonhold

Carol Schauman & Family

Bunny Tubbs

Marylou & Charles Stage



### **GIVEN IN HONOR OF:**

Alison Diehl

Mary Ann Hewes

My Mother, Patti M. Cremaldi

Our Church Family

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

Our Family

### **BY:**

Jesse Diehl

Family & Friends

Paula Jackson & Family

Tom & Carol Coburn

Laurie Neubauer

Marylou & Charles Stage



January 2023



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
SPENCERPORT UCC  
JANUARY 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day! 9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am –Worship	*Office Closed* 	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Ave.)		7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am –Worship		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Avenue)	7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting	7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship/Penny Jar	*Office Closed* 	9:00 am– Breakfast Club @Theo's Restaurant (1174 Brooks Ave.) 6:30/7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting	February Newsletter Deadline  6:30 pm Monthly Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Round Table Meeting	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny d's (2139 North Union St.)		7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		
29	30	31				
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am-Worship		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Blue Ridge Grill (3400 West Ridge Rd.)		7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		

**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](http://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**



*January 2023*