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**THE BELL TOWER**

**The First Congregational Church, Spencerport UCC**

**65 Church Street Spencerport, NY 14559**

**June/July 2023 Newsletter FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK**

**REPOST Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much…**

**~Hellen Keller**

**Pastor Michael L. Sloan**

**THE BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**As I wrestled with what to write about in this newsletter, the phrase The Beloved Community kept coming to my mind. I mulled over where to start, what to say, and how to say it—but still it seemed as if I was experiencing writer’s block. I tossed a few ideas back and forth in my head; but still it seemed that I struggled to connect the dots. Therefore, I decided to just start typing anything that came to mind with no outline, no script, or any particular destination in mind…so here you go.**

**What is the beloved community? When I think of the beloved community, I think about the kitchen table at my late grandmother’s house. The kitchen table was where we laughed together, cried together, read bible stories together, settled family disputes, and chowed down on some of my grandmother’s good ole’ southern cooking. I mentioned this in my sermon on Remembrance Sunday, as well. However, what I didn’t mention to you is that my grandmother was a foster parent. We always had people coming to stay with us. It was so much fun for us kids—it was like one big slumber party, all the time.**

**What makes this story about my grandmother’s foster children so interesting is that she didn’t do it for the money. She did it out of love. Whenever there was a need that arose within our family community (which included her foster children), the need was met. We would all sit down and figure it out together. Whenever grandma gave out hugs to one, she gave out hugs to all of us. Whenever grandma gave out kisses to one, she gave out kisses to all of us. Even as I am writing now—I can remember how we would all gather around the table—foster children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, etc. There were some of the foster children that had disabilities and problems that, obviously, they couldn’t solve on their own.**

**Nevertheless, we were the beloved community. We loved each other. We looked out for each other. And we supported each other.**

**Furthermore, as members of the First Congregational Church of Spencerport—we are the beloved community, as well. We all come from different denominational backgrounds, political affiliations, socio-economic statuses, etc. We all have different personalities, interests, values, hobbies, life experiences, etc. Some in the beloved community are rich; others are poor. Some are mentally healthy; others struggle with mental illnesses. Some are democrats; others are republicans. Some are theologically conservative; others are theologically liberal. Some are introverted; others are extroverted. Yet, we are still the beloved community of God.**

**With that being said, as members of the beloved community, let us look out for each other. If you haven’t seen someone in church for a while, give them a call to check on them. If someone among us is going in for surgery, give them a call to see if they need a meal or two, post-surgery. If someone is the caretaker for a sick parent, spouse or relative, give them a call to see if you can relieve them for an hour or two per week.**

**Finally, as members of the beloved community—We are commissioned by Christ to love each other; to look out for each other; and to support each other.**

**I’ll leave you with this quote by Jen Schmidt, “Community is not about being together. It’s about doing life together.”**

**Grace. Peace. Love. And Light.**

**A Member of the Beloved Community**



**FINANCE BOARD ZOOM MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 14th @ 7:00 PM Via Zoom**

**UPCOMING DATES:**

Sunday, June 4th – Lunch Bunch Following Worship

Saturday, June 10th @ 9:30 am: Meeting

Sunday, June 18th  Women’s Sunday (Father’s Day)

Sunday, July 2nd – Lunch Bunch Following Worship

Saturday, July 15th @ WG Picnic-Tentative



**



**COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, June 20th @ 6:30/7:00 PM**

**HYBRID: IN-PERSON & ZOOM**

**NO JULY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, August 15th.**





**GRADUATION SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH**

**GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS:**

**Shannon Sierzenga**, Darcy Colby’s daughter, graduated from Niagara University with dual Bachelor of Science degrees. One in International Business, and one in Tourism Destination.  She will be pursuing her Master's Degree in Business Administration this fall at Niagara University.

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**Jayden Neidel,** grandson of Gwendolyn Tappenden, will graduate with honors from Lancaster High School on June 21, 2023 at Keybank Center in Buffalo New York.

He will be attending Michigan State University in East Lansing this fall majoring in Finance.

**Join these Sundays for**

**Sonday School!**

**Upcoming Sunday School Dates:**

**6/4 Sonday School**

**6/18 Sonday School**

**- \*\*Last day of Sunday School before**

**Summer break\*\***

# Summer Office Hours Start July 5th.

# Church Summer Office hours:

**Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm**

A close-up of some coins

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**COOKIES NEEDED FOR FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR**

For the Sundays that no one signs up for Coffee Hour we are in need of COOKIES to have available. If you are so inclined to make or purchase any, please label them as COFFEE HOUR and put them in the kitchen. Thank you!

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

**JUNE/ JULY DATES/LOCATIONS**

**June 6th– Town & Country**

(3205 Chili Ave.)

**June 13th– Slayton Place**

(26 Slayton Place)

**June 20th– Steve’s Original Diner**

**(3240 Chili Ave**)

**June 27th– Johnny D’s**

(2139 N. Union St.)

**July 4th– Town & Country**

(3205 Chili Ave.)

**July 11th– Slayton Place**

(26 Slayton Place)

**July 18th– Steve’s Original Diner**

**(3240 Chili Ave**)

**July 25th– Johnny D’s**

(2139 N. Union St.)

**NEEDED**

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***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!)*



**KNITTERS/CROCHETERS WANTED!!**

**Submitted by Holly Bauer-Mergen**

Needles Mission Club would like to invite you to join our efforts in

making blankets for Wilmot Cancer Center and the local dialysis

center. We are a small but hardy group. We currently have 2

people making full blankets by themselves (crocheted and knitted);

1 person knitting squares and crocheting full blankets; 1 person

knitting squares; 1 person crocheting the edges; and 1 person

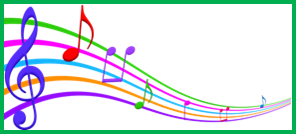
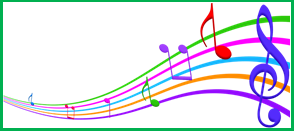
sewing squares together. **We could really use help from someone to knit squares**

(8” garter stitch; we supply the yarn).

Every little bit helps, so if you only have time for a few here and there, that would still be wonderful. If you have any questions, please contact Holly or Gwen.

Close-up of feet on a person's feet

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**FCC MUSIC MINISTRY**



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**THURSDAYS @ 7PM & SUNDAYS @ 9AM**

**June 1st, June 4th, June 15th, June 18th**

**(June 18th will be the last day of Choir before summer break)**

**NEW CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN BAND**

A new Contemporary Christian band played its first

performance on Sunday May 28th during service. This is pilot

program consisting of 7 times that the band will play at First

Congregational Church in Spencerport.

The upcoming dates the band will play are: June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, and August 20.

The members of the band include:

Paul Ortiz, guitar

Mark DeNitto, bass

Frank Holderfield, drums

Darcy Colby, vocals

The band will play contemporary Christian songs, such as

those you would hear on K-Love 104.9 FM radio station. We

hope you will enjoy this new variety of music to our services.

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[3 ***Shafer*** st. Rochester, N.Y. 14608](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=3+Shafer+st.+Rochester,+N.Y.+14608&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiGxeWQitf-AhVFFlkFHSXiDqIQ7xYoAHoECBYQAQ)

**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.

.

**RACS Partnership Update**

**JUNE: GREETERS: COFFEE HOUR: USHERS:**

4 – Sandy Saylor 4 – **Lunch Bunch** 4 – Karen Eysaman11 – Ginny Worden11 – **TBA** 11 – Karen Eysaman18–Bunny Tubbs & Jean Decker 18 – Bunny Tubbs18 – **TBA**

25 – **TBA** 25 – **TBA** 25 – **TBA**

**LAY READERS:**

4 –Ginny Worden 11 – Kim Mowers 18 – Gwendolyn Tappenden 25 – Ellen M Kern

**JULY: GREETERS: COFFEE HOUR: USHERS:**

2 – **TBA** 2 – **Lunch Bunch** 2 – **TBA**

9 – **TBA** 9 – **TBA** 9 – **TBA**

16 – **TBA** 16 – **TBA** 16 – **TBA**

23 – **TBA** 23 – **TBA** 23 – **TBA**

30 – **TBA** 30 – **TBA** 30 – **TBA**

**LAY READERS:**  2 – **TBA** 9 – **TBA** 16 – **TBA** 23 – **TBA** 30 – **TBA**

**JUNE/JULY MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

As part of our continuing collaboration with Rochester Academy Charter Elementary School, members of the Round Table have visited the school twice this month. On Friday May, 11th we dropped off the snacks that had been collected here at church, and at our community partner locations.

The new Principal, Cyndy Belfield, was most appreciative of the snacks, as well as, our previous help and ongoing commitment to RACS. We discussed how they would like to receive the monetary donations that had been received for school supplies and winter gear, and asked if they might be interested in the children’s books and reference books that were left over from the Book Sale. We also learned that socks and underwear are a significant need for the children.

On Tuesday, May 23rd we delivered a check for $2800, and boxes of books to the school. At this second meeting Ms. Belfield invited us to join in an event, on June 14th, distributing snacks and books to the children for summer vacation. The school is also planning to hand out school supplies to students at an open house event before school starts and has invited us to participate.

We will be bringing the collection boxes back from the community partners after Memorial Day and redecorating them for school supplies, and socks and underwear. There are plans underway for an Appreciation Ceremony for our community partners to be held July 16th at 12 noon here at the church. Our next Pulled Pork Dinner is tentatively scheduled for August 12th.

Thank you for all your support.

The Knights of The Round Table

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**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!**

Thank you for your continuing and generous support to the

Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf.

This month the following items

are especially needed:

**Jelly, Canned spaghetti sauce,**

**Cooking beans, Assorted canned**

**veggies, Soups – all varieties, Canned**

**fruit, Boxed mash potatoes, Jell-o,**

**Coffee, Cold drinks, Shampoo/conditioner,**

**Toothpaste, and Toothbrushes.**

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

**Upcoming dates for *Son*day School:**

**6/4 Sonday School**

**6/18 Sonday School**

**Announcements for Christian Education:**

WANTED: 5 –7 Congregants who are interested in serving on a short-term committee to create an appropriate Christian Education program for our church. Given the changes in our church population and society’s general negative attitude toward organized religion, our current CE program is not effective. Input from church members to create a new vision is needed.

If you are interested, please contact Robert Colby or Sue Bagley.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES: On Sunday, June 25 we would like to celebrate graduates within our extended church family. Please contact Paula in the Church office by June 20th so that we may include your loved ones in our celebration. Please provide graduate’s name, relationship to you, school graduating from, degree or program, plans for the future.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: July 10-15 at Ogden Presbyterian Church on South Union St., 9-noon. Registration forms are available at the table in the back of the Sanctuary and in the Church office. Deadline to register is June 25, 2023.

“SONDAY” SCHOOL: Remaining class dates are 6/4 and 6/18. Over the Summer, a monthly mailing will go out to students to include a Bible story and a related craft.

Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf

**CHRISTIAN ACTION**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

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**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.



**First Congregational**

**Church,**

**Spencerport UCC**

**Please wish a very Happy Birthday To:**

**16th - Alison Diehl**

**Alison, your Church Family**

**Wishes you a very Happy Birthday!**

**Gods Blessings to you both!**

**\*\*Please send Paula your Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**so, we can celebrate together! (information below) \*\***

A birthday cake with candles on it

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**AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS JULY 19th.**

**If you would like to submit an article for The August Newsletter, please email the church office at** [**admin@spencerportucc.org**](mailto:admin@spencerportucc.org)**, by July 19th .**

**Thank you!**

# 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**

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| --- |
| A picture containing glasses, eyewear, accessory, illustration  Description automatically generatedA picture containing font, graphics, logo, design  Description automatically generated***FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH***  ***SPENCERPORT UCC***  ***JUNE 2023*** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  |  |  | **1** | **2** | **3** |
|  |  |  |  | **7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal** |  |  |
| **Trinity Sunday 4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** |
| **9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal**  **10:00 am-Worship/ Lunch Bunch** |  | **9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country**  **(3205 Chili Ave.)**  8 pm - ALANON | **7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting** |  |  | **Women’s Guild –**  **9:30 am Meeting** |
| **Second Sunday after Pentecost 11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** |
| **10:00 am-Worship**  **(CC Band Playing)** |  | **9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place**  **(26 Slayton Place)**  8 pm - ALANON |  | **7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal** | **Happy Birthday!**  **Alison Diehl** |  |
| **Third Sunday after Pentecost 18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** |
| **9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal** (Women’s Sunday)  Text  Description automatically generated**10:00 am-**  **Worship/**  **Sunday School** |  | **9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Steve’s Original Diner**  **(3240 Chili Ave)**  **6:30/7:00 pm – Council/Boards Meeting**  8 pm - ALANON | **6:30 pm -Monthly Staff Meeting**  **7:00 pm –Round Table Meeting** |  |  |  |
| **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |  |
| **10:00 am-Worship –**  **Graduation Sunday**  **(CC Band Playing)** |  | **9:00 am– Breakfast Club**  **@ Johnny D’s**  **(2139 N. Union St.)**  8 pm - ALANON |  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| A picture containing drawing, child art, illustration, cartoon  Description automatically generatedA picture containing graphics, logo, font, symbol  Description automatically generated***FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH***  ***SPENCERPORT UCC***  ***JULY 2023*** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **1** |
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| **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 2** | **\*OFFICE CLOSED\* 3** | **\*OFFICE CLOSED\* 4** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 5** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 6** | **7** | **8** |
| **10:00 am-Worship/ Lunch Bunch** |  | **9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country**  **(3205 Chili Ave.)** | **7:00 pm – Zoom Finance Board Meeting** |  |  |  |
| **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9** | **10** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 11** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 12** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 13** | **14** | **15** |
| **10:00 am-Worship**  **(CC Band Playing)** | **6-8 pm Rotary Meeting – Fellowship Hall** | **9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place**  **(26 Slayton Place)**  8 pm - ALANON | August  Newsletter  Deadline |  |  | **Women’s Guild –**  **Picnic (Tentative)** |
| **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 16** | **17** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 18** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 19** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 20** | **21** | **22** |
| **10:00 am-Worship**  **Noon – Community Appreciation Luncheon With RAC’s** | **6-8 pm Rotary Meeting – Fellowship Hall** | **9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Steve’s Original Diner**  **(3240 Chili Ave)**  **\*NO COUNCIL MEETING\*** 8 pm - ALANON | **6:30 pm -Monthly Staff Meeting**  **7:00 pm –Round Table Meeting** |  |  |  |
| **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 23** | **24** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 25** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 26** | **OFFICE HOURS 9:30-2:30 27** | **28** | **29** |
| **10:00 am-Worship**  **(CC Band Playing)** | **6-8 pm Rotary Meeting – Fellowship Hall** | **9:00 am– Breakfast Club**  **@ Johnny D’s**  **(2139 N. Union St.)**  8 pm - ALANON |  |  |  |  |
| **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 30** | **31** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10:00 am-Worship** | **6-8 pm Rotary Meeting – Fellowship Hall** |  |  |  |  |  |

**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** v

**Web site: www.spencerportucc.org**

**Facebook: www.facebook.com/SpencerportUCC**

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

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

**Administrative Assistant: Paula Jackson**

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

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

**Music Director: Darcy Colby**

**E-mail: musicdirector@spencerportucc.org**

**Accompanist: Lindsey Williams**



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