

May 2024



THE BELL TOWER



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



May 2024 Newsletter

A day without laughter is a day wasted.
~Charlie Chaplin

There came a time when a jovial comical preacher by the name of Rev. Johnson, was on his death bed. He sent a message to his banker and his attorney, both church members, to come to his home. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom. As they entered the room, the old preacher motioned for both to come, sit on either side of the bed. Rev. Johnson grabbed their hands, breathed a sigh of relief, smiled, and then gazed at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything. Both the banker and the attorney were touched and flattered that the old preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moments.

However, they were also puzzled because for decades they were convinced that they old preacher didn't like them. They both remembered his many long, uncomfortable sermons about greed, covetousness, and materialistic behaviors that left them squirming in their pews.

Finally, the banker said, "Ummmm...Rev. Johnson, why did you ask us to come here."

Though he was weak in his body and his color began to fade, the old light-hearted jovial preacher smiled, mustered up enough strength to sit up in the bed; and with a raspy voice said, "Well..Jesus died between two thieves and that's how I want to go to." The banker and the attorney did not know whether to laugh or to be offended. However, the words of the preacher did bring a chuckle or two.

*Church: As you dance across the world's stage, from the cradle to the grave, don't forget to laugh; to laugh at yourself; to laugh with others; and to laugh your way through the ups and downs of life.

It was Dr. Malynnda Johnson, an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Indiana State University, who said: "There are many physical, emotional, cognitive, and social benefits to laughter...It is believed that laughter, whether you are observing it or doing it, activates multiple regions of the brain—releasing hormones known as endorphins...these endorphins are vital chemicals produced by your body to relieve stress, pain, and tension."

Keep in mind the words of Charlie Chaplin, "A day without laughter is a day wasted."

Pastor Michael L. Sloan

**ON SUNDAY, MAY 19
WEAR RED
for
PENTECOST
SUNDAY**

May 2024



UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, May 5th - Lunch Bunch - Following Worship Service
Saturday, May 11th - @ 9:30 am: Women's Guild Meeting

BREAKFAST CLUB



MAY DATES/LOCATIONS

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



COUNCIL AND BOARDS MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 21st @ 6:30/7:00 PM



FINANCE BOARD ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday, May 8th @ 7:00 PM Via Zoom

May 2024

MAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

GREETERS:

5 – TBA
12– Jean & Bunny
19 – TBA
26 – TBA

COFFEE HOUR:

5 – LUNCH BUNCH
12 – Jean & Bunny
19 – TBA
26 – TBA

USHERS:

5 – Tom & Carol Coburn
12 – TBA
19 – TBA
26 – TBA

LAY READERS:

5 – TBA
12 – Ellen M Kern
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****

ARE YOU A WIDOW? OR, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS A WIDOW?
NAOMI'S CIRCLE

Naomi's Circle will meet on **Thursdays, May 9th 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. 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.



May 2024

FCC MUSIC MINISTRY

Praise Band



UPDATE

PRAISE BAND SUNDAY'S IN MAY

The Praise Band will perform during worship service on Sunday, **May 12th & 26th**. The Praise Band will continue to perform every other Sunday alternating with the Choir.

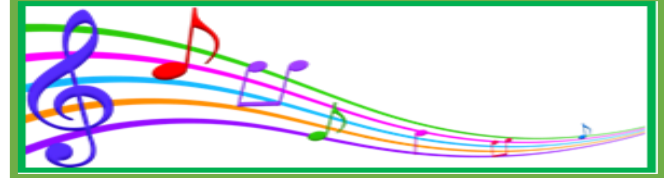
The members of the band include:

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



SUMMER MUSIC UPDATE!

The Praise Band will perform on **July 21st and August 25th**.
The Choir will perform on **July 14th and August 11th**.



CHOIR PRACTICE'S IN MAY

Choir Practices are Thursdays,
May 2nd & 16th @ 7:00 pm.

CHOIR SUNDAY'S IN MAY

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

***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. ***

MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 2024



Anniversaries
and Birthdays

First Congregational
Church,
Spencerport UCC
May



Please wish a
Happy Birthday To:
4th – Ollie Simmons – 97 yrs.
Ollie your Church Family
Wishes you a Very Very
Happy Birthday!
Gods Blessings!

 *Blessed Is The Woman
Who Walks With God*

❧❧❧ *Mother's Day Prayer* ❧❧❧

Lord God we pray for mothers everywhere.

Like Samuel's mother, may they have wisdom to know how to protect their children and keep them from harm.

Like Naomi, may they be able to turn hard situations into good.

Like Lois and Eunice, may they be ready to share the love of Christ with their children.

In all that they give to others may they have the joy of knowing that they too are children, held in the love and care of God.

Amen



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.

*Support the Spencerport
CROP Hunger Walk 2024*

May 2024

CHRISTIAN ACTION

Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf

This year's CROP walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2024 - beginning at 1:00 pm - with check-in beginning at 12:30 pm.

The 6.2-mile walk starts at the United Methodist Church on Amity Street and proceeds to Adams Basin on the Erie Canal path.

Those who do not wish to walk the 6.2 miles can opt for a one-mile trek. Markers along the path will tally the milestones.

After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

You can sign up to walk by joining the Spencerport UCC team or make an online donation, by using the link below.

Or - make a donation by check - made payable to CWS/CROP and give to Len or Melanie Ippolito on the day of the walk or before.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/spencerportny>



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

This month, the following items are especially needed:

Canned Fruit, Coffee/Hot Drinks, Cold Drinks, Cooking Beans, Large sized Peanut Butter, Jello and Pudding, Boxed Potatoes, Pasta Roni, Rice A Roni, Tuna, 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.



JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS May 22nd.

If you would like to submit an article for The June Newsletter, please email the church office at admin@spencerportucc.org, By May 22nd. 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!



May 2024

CHRISTIAN ACTION BOARD – THANK YOU!

The Board of Christian Action wants to express our sincere thanks for the congregations response to our request for 1000 individual bags of chips for the Salem Soup Kitchen. You not only donated 1000 bags, but you donated 2000. The staff at Salem are delighted and send their thanks. These are not the most nutritious but put a bright spot in many lunches. THANKS AGAIN!

Thank you so much

A HUGE THANK YOU to each of you who were so encouraging and concerned for me during my recent health issue. It means so much to have such wonderful support when you are going through a difficult time. I am very grateful for my church family.

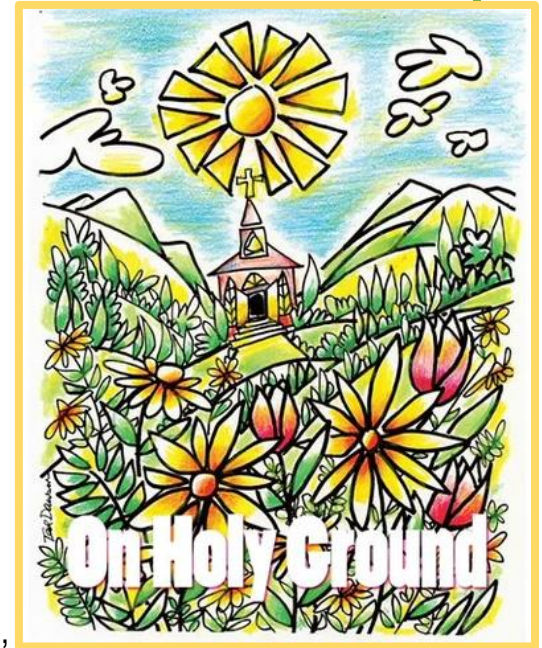
~Gwendolyn Tappenden~

Thank you to my Church Family for all the cards!
~Pat Witt~

Thank you so much

Strengthen the Church – 2024

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. **The STC offering will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024.** Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



May 2024



PENNY JAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Your January, February, and March donations to the Penny Jar totaled \$266.00 which has been sent to UNICEF. Thanks to all of you who helped make this possible. Our April, May, and June recipient will be the ATAXIA Foundation of Rochester.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

We will be cleaning and reorganizing the nursery soon. If you are the family who donated the crib that is currently in the nursery, we want you to know that we will no longer be keeping it, and if you would like to reclaim it, please feel free to do so before the beginning of June. If you do not want it, we will be putting it out for the next Spencerport area bulk pick up.

Thank you so much for your help in the nursery reorganization.



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

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

Cell: (309) 262-6543

E-mail: pastor@spencerportucc.org

Administrative Assistant: Paula Jackson

Office: (585) 352-3448

E-mail: admin@spencerportucc.org





May 2024

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SPENCERPORT UCC
MAY 2024**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Newsletter Online	3pm – SEM @ Ogden Presbyterian Church 7 pm-Choir Practice		
Sixth Sunday of Easter 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing/ Lunch Bunch Following Worship CROP WALK – 1 PM		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Town & Country (3205 Chili Ave.) 7 pm – ALANON	7pm-Zoom Finance Board Meeting	Noon – Naomi’s Circle 		9:30 am – Women’s Guild Meeting - Fellowship Hall 
Seventh Sunday of Easter 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 am-Worship / Praise Band Performing 		9:00 am– Breakfast Club @ Slayton Place (26 Slayton Place) 7 pm – ALANON	6:15 pm -Staff Meeting	7 pm-Choir Practice		
Pentecost Sunday 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 am – Choir Rehearsal 10 am-Worship / Choir Singing *Communion Sunday* Strengthen the Church offering. 		9 am– Breakfast Club @ Steve’s Original Diner (3240 Chili Ave.) 6:30/7 pm – Council/Boards Meeting 7 pm – ALANON	JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 			
Trinity Sunday 26	Memorial Day 27	28	29	30	31	
10 am-Worship / Praise Band Performing 	*OFFICE CLOSED*	9 am– Breakfast Club @ Johnny D’s (2139 N. Union St.) 7 pm – ALANON	*Newsletter Mailed*			

**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:



May 2024