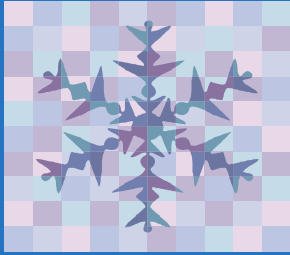


January-
February
2020



GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

Leslie's Musings

Leslie's Musings

January-February 2020

*When Jesus was at table with the disciples, he took bread,
and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to them.
And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.*

Many ministers I know choke up a little when they say these lovely words from the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Something about the ability to recognize our Lord in simple bread and wine is deeply moving. Something about 20/20 vision.

Jesus and our liturgy (the words we say during worship and prayer) speak to spiritual perfect vision. In Luke 4:18, Jesus says in part, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim recovery of sight to the blind."

I've worn glasses since I was in 2nd grade, and my ability to see is abysmal without correction. I am deeply grateful for technology that allows me to see more clearly, and for the wizardry that allows people with cataracts to have corrective lenses right on their eyeballs. Amazing!

Can we view Scripture as a corrective lens to the darkness that seems to spread upon the earth? During Hanukkah, which happened to coincide with Christmas this year, there were several attacks on Jewish communities, including one in a rabbi's home. Domestic violence escalated in Erie County last year. Don't even get me started on how many school children have died as a result of shootings. Does scripture help?

"The overarching theme of the Gospel of Matthew is the role of Jesus as the Christ in relation to God's plan of salvation for *all humanity*," says my Bible's introduction to the Gospel for Year A, our current lectionary year (emphasis mine). How do our lives and actions point to that salvation for all?

As I like to remind you at Communion, on that last night of his life, Jesus knew he was at table with one who would betray him, another who would deny him three times, and likely deduced that the others would fall away (or fall asleep, as indeed they did). Did Jesus throw them out? No, *he fed them*. He was just and merciful to those who would harm him. He offered sustenance to those who would not or could not sustain him.

His unconditional love, grace, and kindness then changed the world, and with it, his followers. The one who denied him, Peter, later became the rock on which the church was built, and was one of the stars of The Acts of the Apostles. Treating someone with kindness doesn't always change future actions, but it couldn't hurt, right?

Let us endeavor, then, to see with Jesus' eyes, and to proclaim recovery of sight to all who are blind, whether in their eyes or their spirit. It might restore your spiritual vision to 20/20. Meanwhile, know that you are loved, beloved child of God.

Love,

Leslie

Words from the Worship Ministry Team

“I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.”

John 12:47

January Worship 11AM

Sun, Jan 05th 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie; NO Communion

Sun, Jan 12th 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie; “Baptism of the Lord”;
Communion by Intinction

Wed, Jan 15th 6:30p - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Jan 19th 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Jan 26th 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie



February Worship 11AM

Sun, Feb 02nd 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie - Communion by Intinction

Sun, Feb 09th 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Feb 16th 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Wed, Feb 19th 6:30p - Healing Worship service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Feb 23rd 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Wed, Feb 26th 7:15p - **ASH WEDNESDAY** worship with Pastor Leslie

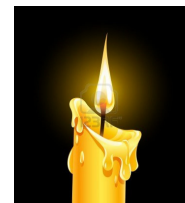


PLEASE: The WMT needs YOUR help! Please consider learning how to set up for **COMMUNION**. It's very easy. It takes only a short amount of time/effort. Contact Shirley Hagle, Jane Crossan, Pat Loeswick or Janet Haacker for the instructions and/or shadowing opportunity. Please help!

****PLEASE come & join the Worship Ministry Team! A great way to use your gifts behind the scenes! We need your input. Informal. Usually the 1st or 2nd Thursday of the month. Check the bulletin for the date!**

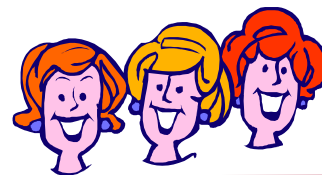
All **AGES** are welcome to become an
ACOLYTE.

Check with Janet Schurr for more information.



WMT Members:

Co-Chairs: Elders Mary Ferro and Pat Loeswick;
Members: Jane Crossan, Kurt Ebsary, Janet Haacker,
Shirley Hagle, and Janet Schurr.
Spiritual Advisor: Pastor Leslie Latham



Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering

Saturday, February 1 from 10am-1pm

First Presbyterian Church

One Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY

Topic: "Love Thy Neighbor?"

Opening our Hearts and Minds to Others

Panel of Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes, First Presbyterian Church

Dr. Charlene Vetter, Counseling Center SUC Buffalo

Andy Cammarata, Journey's End

Cost for lunch: \$7.00

Bring (or donate-cash/check) new or gently used winter coats with hoods for teenage boys at Journey's End (size S or M only)

Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex

Contact Jane Crossan for details

Circle II Sales

Mark Your Calendar for 2020

Wednesday, April 1

Wednesday, May 6

Wednesday, June 3

Wednesday, September 2

Wednesday, October 7

Wednesday, November 4

Please remember items you no longer need are still accepted. Please be sure they are reusable and in clean condition.

Please no electronics.

Deacon's Notes

Tonawanda Schools Holiday Party

The Deacons would like to thank all the people who donated so generously to the Holiday Party for the kids in the Tonawanda Schools. The party was held on December 14th and bags of food were given to 100 families whose children attend school in the City of Tonawanda. Also, thanks to all the people who took the time to help package and deliver the bags to the school.

Hunger Sunday: January 19 & February 16

Don't forget that the third Sunday of the month is **Hunger Sunday**. Food and cash donations are welcome and proceeds are donated to the Twin Cities Community Outreach. Thank you for your support! Many thanks to Donna and Bruce Blinston for delivering the food to the food pantry every month.



Tonawanda School Mission Project

Thank you for your continued support with this ongoing mission project. The Deacons are continuing to provide much needed clothing to needy children in the Tonawanda Schools. With the cold weather, the schools have expressed a need for warmer clothing items for boys and girls such as stretch pants, leggings or sweatshirts. There is also a need for underwear and socks.

Either a monetary donation or clothing donation is acceptable. There is also a tote in the Narthex where you can drop off any donations. Please see Jane Crossan or Leslie Dugan with questions as to the appropriate sizes that are needed or with any questions you may have .

Ash Wednesday Potluck Dinner and Worship:

On Wednesday, February 26, there will be a Potluck Dinner at 6pm followed by worship with communion at 7:15pm. Bring a dish to share.



Memorial Easter Flowers

The Deacons will be selling assorted Easter plants to honor loved ones again this year. Stay tuned for further details.

A STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

by Janet Haacker



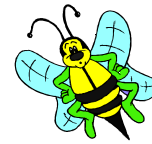
So many times we look at New Years as a time for **New Beginnings** – a time to “start over,” “start something new,” or a time to “get back into shape.” We want to get ourselves back in order, back to a time where we can find solid ground so that we can be re-energized!

Sometimes we need to take a fresh look outside of our self in order to move along on our spiritual journey. God wants us to be in fellowship with one another – to share good times and the “not so good times!” He brought us together in church for that reason – to find strength and courage and hope and love **TOGETHER!** We need each other to actually live out a Christian life!

Find a new way to participate – to share your gifts & talents in a new/challenging way! Join a ministry team, help with Circle II, volunteer at Memory Lane, use your voice to strengthen the choir, sign up to be a liturgist/greeter/provider of a Sunday coffee hour treat or serve communion, or find your own special way to have that “fresh new start!”

New Beginnings can be the way to find a better understanding of God’s love for you!





Happy Birthday to all the kids who celebrate their birthday in January and February!

January

5 Ryan Barry
12 Alaric Hankinson
13 Ava Foley
14 Ryan Tasevski
25 Kathryn Yurek



February

22 Juliana Haacker
28 David Charsley

Adult Bible Study meets the third Sunday of the month right after worship. All are welcome to come and join the class.

Sunday, January 19

Sunday, February 16

Any questions, contact Nancy Bassett.

Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:45am. All are welcome to come and join the class. Any questions, contact Janet Haacker.

Christian Education Meeting:

Monday, January 27 - 6pm

Monday, February 10 - 6pm

(Parents & Teachers are always welcome)

Mission and Outreach Team

TOWN HALL MEETING: Sunday, January 12 at 9:30am in the parlor.

The Mission and Outreach Team would like to invite all the parents of the Sunday School kids or anyone else interested to attend this Town Hall Meeting to have a discussion about their views about our church in general and what they would like to see from the Mission and Outreach Team. Any questions, contact Betsy Crocker.

Service Trip to VIVÉ: January 25

The Mission and Outreach Team will be visiting VIVÉ and installing a coat rack and doing other odd jobs to help support this mission. Everyone is invited to come along and help. More details to follow.

Music Notes - January and February

Annual Epiphany Concert - Sunday, January 5 at 6pm

Join us for an evening of vocal and instrumental music from our choir and other choirs and musical ensembles from local churches. This is a free concert and open to the public.

St. Francis of Assisi Church
150 Broad Street, Tonawanda

Choir Rehearsal: 7:30pm

January: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

February: 6, 13, 20, 27

As always, new members (or even sporadic drop-ins) are always most welcome!

Hearts4Worship Rehearsal: 6:30pm

January: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

February: 6, 13, 20, 27

Happy Birthday to our Church Family who celebrate their birthday in January and February.

Thank GOD For You!

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

JANUARY

5 Kevin Donovan
10 Larry Rayner
19 Kathy Evans
20 Marilee Mathias
24 Alice Ennis
27 John Faux
31 Katie Welch

FEBRUARY

7 Bob Eshelman
12 Nicholas Nolan
14 Wilma Bender
28 Ann Drapo

Worship Assistants

Greeters: January

5 Nancy Dietrich
12 Linda Barry
19 Bonnie Zimmer & Shirley Hagle
26 Tasevski Family

Greeters: February

2 Diane & Bob Eshelman
9 Lynn Hyland
16 Jane Crossan
23

Liturgists: January

5 Tom Dugan
12 Pat Loeswick
19 Billy Welch
26 Sue Schurr

Liturgists: February

2 Janet Haacker
9 Diane Charsley
16 Sue Schurr
23

Coffee Hour: January

5 Tom & Leslie Dugan
12 Jane Crossan & Nancy Dietrich
19 Joya Palermo
26 Terry DeLuca

Coffee Hour: February

2
9
16
23

Communion Servers

January 12: 11am By Intinction
Mary Ferro, Janet Schurr, Sue Schurr

Pew Server: Janet Haacker

February 2: 11am By Intinction
Marilee Mathias, Janet Haacker

Pew Server: Pat Loeswick

Ushers: January

5 Team 1
12 Team 2
19 Team 3
26 Team 4

Ushers: February

2 Team 1
9 Team 2
16 Team 3
23 Team 4

Usher Teams

-Team 1

William Welch, Jessica Schurr, Alvin & Laura Marohn, Nathan Harrington, and Mary Ferro

-Team 2

Tom & Leslie Dugan, Jeremy Bearfield, Ryan Yurek, Shelby Bearfield, and Pat Loeswick

-Team 3

Randy Marohn, John Greth, J. William Haley, Linda Barry, Joya Palermo, and Ryan Tasevski

-Team 4

Brian Burns, Kelsey Burns, Kaitlyn Burns, Diane Charsley, John Faux, and Bonnie Zimmer

January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed	2 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship Team 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	3 UFO 7p	4
5 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Epiphany Concert 6p St. Francis Church	6 AA 9a	7	8	9 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	10 UFO 7p	11 "Unhanging of the Greens" - 9:30a Everyone is Invited
12 Sunday School 9:30a Town Hall Meeting 9:30am Worship 11a	13 AA 9a	14	15 Healing Service 6:30p	16 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	17 UFO 7p	18
19 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Hunger Sunday	20 Office Closed AA 9a	21 Memory Lane 10:30a	22	23 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	24 UFO 7p	25 Mission & Outreach Team Service Trip To Vivé Presbytery Mtg Maryvale Drive Pres Church 10a
26 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	27 AA 9a CE 6p Session 7p	28	29	30 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	31 UFO 7p	

Ministry Team Chairs, Deacons, Church School, Presbyterian Women & Circle groups – it is your responsibility to submit announcements and/or information on events or meetings to the office by the following date if you wish them to be published.

March-April Newsletter Articles DUE: February 15, 2020

Announcements for the weekly bulletin must be submitted to the office by Tuesday before Noon, preferable by email, to be included in the following Sunday's bulletin.

February 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	3 AA 9a	4 Deacons 1p	5	6 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship Team 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	7 UFO 7p	8
9 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	10 AA 9a CE 6p Session 7p	11	12	13 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	14 UFO 7p	15
16 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Hunger Sunday	17 Office Closed AA 9a	18 Memory Lane 10:30a	19 Healing Service 6:30p	20 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	21 UFO 7p	22
23 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	24 AA 9a	25	26 Ash Wednesday Potluck Dinner 6p Worship 7:15p	27 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	28 UFO 7p	29



Elders

Class of 2020

Tom Dugan, Elizabeth Crocker

Class of 2021

Laura Marohn, Mary Ferro

Class of 2022

Diane Charsley, Patricia Loeswick

Deacons

Class of 2020

Judy Geerkin, Alvin Marohn, Marlene Tyrrell

Class of 2021

Lynn Hyland

Class of 2022

Jane Crossan, Donna Blinston, Leslie Dugan

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, NY 14150-2111

Phone: (716) 692-1319

E-mail: church@firstprestona.org

Web address: www.firstprestona.org

DATED MATERIAL
Good News Gazette
January-February 2020
