



The First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville

The *Good News*-Letter



March 2014



Ash Wednesday Soup & Bread Supper and Worship Service March 5

As we begin the season of Lent, we will come together for a time of fellowship and a simple meal, followed by worship.

6:15 PM Soup & Bread Supper

7:30 PM Worship Service

Please join us!



LENT BEGINS

The passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the very heart of our lives as Christians. Each year we recall Christ's suffering, Christ's dying, and Christ's rising during Holy Week. But we need time to prepare ourselves for this powerful week that shapes the rest of our year and how we worship and live our lives. The 40 days of Lent provide us with that time, as we think about our own redemption in Christ.

Lent is a time for us to think about forgiveness and reconciliation. It is a time for us to remember that Christ died for each of us. We often equate Lent with the idea of giving up something, but we ought instead to think about taking on something: taking on more intentionally the gift of God's grace and God's love through Christ. Lent is the ideal time to welcome new members into our community of faith, and renew and refresh our own faith. It is a time for new beginnings as we prepare ourselves to shout out those joyful words of Easter, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!"

**First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville**

Session Moderator
Rev. Bill Doster
201-394-7017

Clerk of Session
Deborah Chedister

The Session

LouAnne Blanchard 2014
Tim Erchick 2014
Chris Pasquarelli 2014
Bobbie Trager 2014*
Nancy Bruscano 2015
Lois Dunikowski 2015
Doris Dunn 2016
Nancy Popoloski 2016

Board of Deacons

Jorus Beasley 2014*
Mark Chedister 2014
Beth Tyrrell 2014
Carrie Maurya 2015
Debbie Woodmansee 2015
Peggy Wright 2015
Tanya Bray 2016
Beth Cooke 2016

*indicates second term
**indicates youth deacon

Office Manager
Cynthia Carey

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Office Hours are:
Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
www.fpcw.makeswebsites.com

Presbytery of Hudson River
www.hudrivpres.org

Food for Thought

Two invitations to look within: First, the groundhog did see its shadow, which might have been a sign; second, the official start of lent is only a few days away.

The winter chill is the outward prompting to "get inside." I met with a dozen adults one winter a few years ago to explore Julia Cameron's book, *THE ARTIST'S WAY: A SPIRITUAL PATH TO HIGHER CREATIVITY*. Not my generation. Younger by thirty or forty years. Not people who saw themselves as "church types." They met to find a way to get inside themselves and break through their shadows to free their creative spirits.

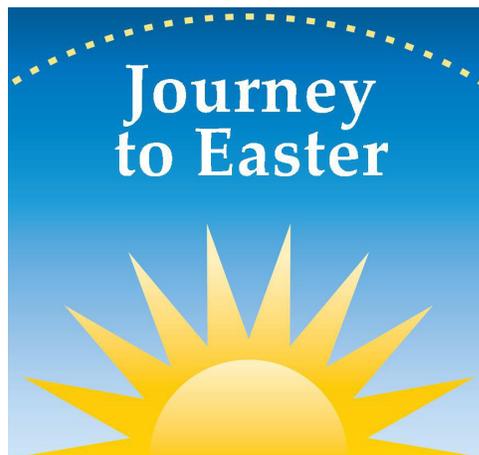
This is a generation we want back in the pews. This is a generation in which many hunger for a sense of new authenticity and wholeness. The promise was enough to bring twelve strangers out on a cold, wet night. They decided to keep meeting.

What about us? I mean, during Lent, what do we—who-are-called-disciples do to address our possibility for new wholeness and authenticity? By our spiritual hunger and our own search, can we offer something to this coming generation? Do we drag our old shadows behind us, season after season, content to be left alone? When the soul-flame dies in a friend—when darkness without warmth fills the void, what can we offer from our own quest?

These were a few of the questions on my mind as we talked together that night. These are questions that still linger in my own mind.

On the inward journey to Easter,

Pastor Bill



IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY



Important News: Pastoral Emergency Care

If emergency care is needed, please contact Pastor Bill Doster at w.b.doster@verizon.net or call him at 201-501-8951.

A church officer checks the answering machine in the office daily when Cynthia is not scheduled to be in the office.

Worship

Ash Wednesday is on March 5th and is the beginning of the Lenten Season leading up to Holy Week in April. We will be having our traditional Soup & Bread Supper at 6:15 p.m. and our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for soup and bread makers and also to let us know how many people will be there. We hope you can all be there for this meaningful time in our church.

On March 9th we will be serving Communion in the pews.

Reminder: March 9 begins Daylight Saving Time, so don't forget to set your clocks ahead so you'll be on time for church.

Some dates to look forward to:

- April 13 - Palm Sunday - we will be having Eco-Palms again this year.
- April 15 - The Upper Room Experience, Tuesday evening, presented by Sisters in Spirit.
- April 17 - Maundy Thursday with Soup & Bread Supper at 6:15 p.m. and service at 7:30 p.m.
- April 18-19 - Good Friday 24-Hour Prayer Vigil with opening service at noon on Friday and closing service on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet to cover the time slots for the Vigil hours. We will also have the Labyrinth in Hazekamp Hall and Praying in Colors in the Denniston Room.

Bill Hooper will continue to be with us as our guest organist/pianist/vocalist. We love having him share his talents with us.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in your favorite pews this holiest of seasons in our church calendar.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
M	A	R	C	H		1 11:30 AM Don Blanchard Memorial Service, FPCW Sanctuary
2 <i>The Lord's Supper</i> 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Elders/Deacons 8:00 PM A.A.	3	4 7:00 PM Ministry Night 7:00 PM Troop 416	5 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:15 PM Soup & Bread Supper 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 PM A.A.	6 7:00 PM Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A.	7	8
9 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship - The Lord's Supper 12:30-5 PM Scouts 8:00 PM A.A.	10	11 7:00 PM Troop 416 Court of Honor, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall	12 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A.	13 7:00 PM Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A.	14	15
16 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 8:00 PM A.A.	17	18 7:00 PM Troop 416	19 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #493 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A.	20 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A.	21	22
23 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 8:00 PM A.A.	24	25 10:00 AM Presbytery Meeting at Stony Point 7:00 PM Troop 416	26 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 8:00 PM A.A.	27 7:00 PM Venture Crew 7:30 PM N.A.	28	29
30 8:30 AM Choir 10:00 AM Worship 8:00 PM A.A.	31					

Sundays - 10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Coffee Hour

Church Office Hours are:
Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

3	Gert Roosje	22	Wendy Spierling
	Doris Dunn	25	Evan Thomas
9	Katharine Martinson	28	Thomas Beasley
16	Catherine Trent		Nick Fraser
17	Fred Graziano		Natasha Panzironi
19	Terry Hughes	29	David Dunn III
19	Marissa Pappas	30	Jason Levy
22	Cynthia Carey		

The Garden of the Saints

The Church is a very human organization but also the garden of God's grace. It is a place where great sanctity keeps blooming. Saints are people who make the living Christ visible to us in a special way. Some saints have given their lives in the service of Christ and his Church; others have spoken and written words that keep nurturing us; some have lived heroically in difficult situations; others have remained hidden in quiet lives of prayer and meditation; some were prophetic voices calling for renewal; others were spiritual strategists setting up large organizations or networks of people; some were healthy and strong; others were quite sick, and often anxious and insecure.

But all of them in their own ways lived in the Church as in a garden where they heard the voice calling them the Beloved and where they found the courage to make Jesus the center of their lives.

Bread for the Journey:
Daybook of Wisdom and Faith
by Henri Nouwen

With blessings from the Nurture Ministry

Thank You!

- to for your dedication and diligence as our church treasurer.

You go above and beyond! We are so grateful!

- to Michael Popoloski for repairing the sign holder.
- to all those involved with making the spaghetti a great success. And a special thank you to Peggy Wright for leading the event.



An Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Friends in Christ: Every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness that is proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gathering to share soup and bread at 6:15 on March 5, we begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Pastor Bill

Donald J. Blanchard



Donald J. Blanchard, beloved husband of Lou Anne, passed away on February 6, 2014 in Flagler Beach Florida after a heroic battle with cancer.

Don had a passion for motorcycles, hot rod cars, restoring antique trunks, and spending time with his family and friends.

A Memorial Service in celebration of Don's life will be held on Saturday March 1, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in our Sanctuary.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been set up in Donald Blanchard's name to support cancer research at Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital. To make a donation you can use this link: http://mskcc.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=giv_giving_pages



The deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20th of each month. Please submit the news you want to share, to Cynthia on or before the 20th of each month at firstpres@frontiernet.net.

Some ideas for observing Lent:

- Take turns reading from the Bible around the family dinner table.
- Invite a friend to church.
- Visit someone at the hospital or nursing home.
- Reach out in reconciliation to someone who has hurt you or upset you.
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- Look at God's creation all around you and see signs of new life and rebirth.
- Commit to a new way you and your family will care for and protect this world that God created and all the creatures that inhabit it.
- Find a new way to serve at church or in the community.
- Contribute to a new charity.
- Pray without ceasing.

Spaghetti Dinner

A good time was had by all at our annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 22nd. Our faith community enjoyed working together and serving others to make this a successful fundraiser and community outreach.



Spaghetti Dinner - February 22

Fellowship



Laughter



Fun



Board of Deacons

Food Pantry - The food pantry welcomes all donations. Needed for March will be: spaghetti sauce, pasta, dry or canned soup and flour. Please add at least one of these items to your shopping list. Donations can be placed in the wicker basket outside Hazekamp Hall.

Coffee Hour Needs - All kinds of cookies are welcome. Thank you all for helping the Deacons keep the kitchen stocked!

Prayer Shawl - The Deacons are so happy to have this special ministry to help with their shepherding.

E Prayer Circle - Please contact Lois Dunikowski at lbd9999@hrc.rr.com if you have any prayer requests.

Emergency Use of the Church Building - If any person in our church family is without power, water, or heat, and needs to use the church as a safe haven, please contact your deacon shepherd so he or she can direct your need to the appropriate ministry elder(s).

The Deacons are very happy to serve the members of this congregation. Please let your deacon shepherd know if he or she can help you in any way. (There is a list posted on the bulletin board in the Denniston Room if you are not sure who your deacon shepherd is.)

The Savvy Sisters of Syntax

Helen Robinson celebrated her 87th birthday at home with her family on Sunday, February 16th. On Monday the celebration continued with her friends from The Savvy Soul Sisters of Syntax book club.





Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and Leadership

The endorsed calendar of prayer is a way for us to be united. It's an awesome responsibility and gift to pray for one another. To make our offering on behalf of one another. Each member congregation, staff member, elected servant leader, ministry team, and mission commitment of our Presbytery is represented:

First Church Washingtonville, First Church Philipstown-Cold Spring, First Church Scarborough, Roscoe PC, HRP Gun Violence Response Network, Brewster PC, First Church Hamptonburgh-Campbell Hall, The Rev. Jed Koball-Mission Co-Worker in Peru, All Souls PC-Port Chester, Otisville PC-Mount Hope, The Rev. Gradye Parsons-General Assembly Stated Clerk, First Church Florida, Scotchtown PC-Middletown and The Rev. Neal Presa-Genral Assembly Moderator.



Newsletter articles
April 2014
issue are due before
March 20!

VISION STATEMENT

*Together, we worship God through our
Study, Stewardship, Service, and Song.*

Call Cynthia at **496-3814** or send an e-mail to firstpres@frontiernet.net
to share your news with our church family!



***First Presbyterian Church
30 Goshen Avenue
Washingtonville NY 10992***

Address Correction Requested