

HOLY WEEK UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church IN VICTOR

WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOWEVER YOU HAVE COME.
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

April 1, 2020
Volume XXXIX,
Issue 5
Special Edition



BY THE RIVER

I am indebted to my friend Rev. Corey Keyes who highlighted this passage in one of his video reflections during this Covid-19 pandemic.

“Happy are those...” says the Psalmist, who delight in the Lord. “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither” (Psalm 1)

Friends, we are so planted right now. Forced to stay home. Forced to deal with ourselves when we are not distracted by the patterns of our regular lives. Forced to face our fears and cravings. In the absence of immediate convenient access to many things we desire, the longings we feel give us insight into what we really want. Many are finding that what they most deeply want is family, friends, faith, and well-being. Some celebrate that those things are before them. Others suffer in their absence. This is hard, annoying, uncomfortable, and at times a true cause for grief. I am so sorry for the struggle and isolation this quarantine is bringing to so many of us.

And...we are planted right now. We have a chance to care for the things we have recently taken for granted. We have a chance to drink from the river of life as our beings must turn to that which is truly life-giving. A conversation with a loved one is now precious. An at home meal we can linger over allows us space to give thanks in a way drive-thru never could. If we are strong and safe in body, we can humbly recognize the gift of that. As we are so painfully aware that the things of the world are temporary, we can invest in the things that are eternal.

Love for one another and for Jesus our Christ is never wasted and always worthy. When there is darkness, we can both receive and be a light. To allow oneself to be cared for is a gift to another who longs to care. To care is a gift to another who may be at risk or feel alone. To pause and pray, to read scripture and speak of God, these things are worth the time as they turn us to the Holy One who is beyond time.

The Jewish Shabbat guidelines may serve us well in this time. We gather with loved ones. We prepare our homes to be holy spaces. We bring light into the home, are intentional in our thanksgiving, and together tell stories of provision and purpose. We remember, whatever else may be true, we are God’s beloved people.

The facility of our corporate gathering space is closed for a time. The programs of the institution continue in new and creative ways. But the church is now, and has always been, the followers of Christ. The church is open. Love one another. Love God. Care for another. Be cared for. Reach out. Settle down. Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy as you turn to the river that brings you life.

Thank you. Bless you. Know that I’m here.

Pastor Colin

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OFFICE HOURS

- Monday-Thursday 9-1
- 585-924-2289
- office@victorpres.org
- To reach Rev. Colin Pritchard directly: 585-734-7007 or pastor@victorpres.org



FROM THE OFFICE

I am still available for your needs in the office. While I will not be going directly into the church for the time being, I am available and am working hard behind the scenes. From updating and maintaining the website, News Blog and YouTube Channel, to staying in communication with Pastor Colin and our congregation through our staff and Deacons, I am here for you as needed! Please note that the office hours have not changed, Pastor Colin will be maintaining the in-office hours, Monday-Thursday 9-1. Please feel free to call the office and leave a message if you don't get an answer, we will get back to you! Feel free to also email the office at office@victorpres.org with any questions, concerns, or for information, I will be checking it daily for all needs. Please also note that emails sent from the office during this time usually contain important and timely information. Stay tuned next week for information about our new on-line giving platform.

~Courtney Maltman

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” ~ Deuteronomy 21:8

VIRTUAL CHURCH– NEW FACEBOOK PAGE, YOUTUBE CHANNEL, AND NEWS BLOG

Worship continues! There are many ways to stay connected to the church through online platforms. Each week Pastor Colin leads worship on Facebook Live, on Sundays at 10 am and a Prayer Service on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Ayn and Camilla will be leading music for the Sunday services, while maintaining social distancing. Facebook may not be your favorite place to be these days, but right now it is a space where people can comment and communicate with each other, send messages of prayer, and get important information. If you are not connected to Facebook, you can watch all of the services on our YouTube channel at any time. There will also be added special opportunities for worship during Holy Week and Easter (see the schedule on the following page). Additionally, our website (particularly our **News Blog**) is the best way to get up to date news and information on what's happening in the church and community! All the links to these platforms can be found below.

***Facebook Page:**

www.facebook.com/firstvictorpres/

***YouTube Channel:**

Search “First Presbyterian Church in Victor”

***Website:**

victorpres.org

***Website News Blog:**

victorpres.org/news-blog/



The building is closed, but the Church is open!

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday, April 1st, 7 pm

Livestream Facebook Prayer Service

Palm Sunday, April 5th, 10 am

Livestream Facebook Sunday Service

Wednesday, April 8th, 7 pm

Livestream Facebook Prayer Service

Good Friday, April 10th, 7 pm

Livestream Facebook Service

Easter Sunday, April 12th, 10 am

Livestream Facebook Easter Service

All services will be livestreamed on the First Presbyterian Church of Victor's Facebook page at the times indicated. The services will then be available to later watch on our First Presbyterian Church in Victor YouTube channel!

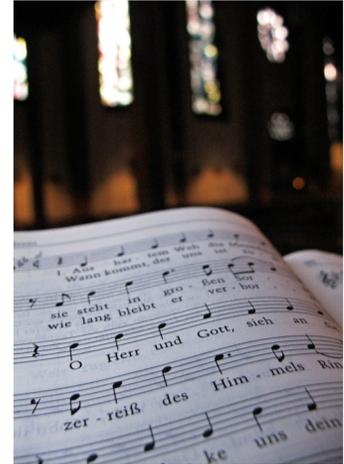
APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Garrett Simpson.....1st
 Tessa Labrake.....2nd
 Jason Liddle.....2nd
 Reid Holter.....3rd
 Julia Bellefeuille....7th
 Kristine Joseph.....8th
 Justin Miles.....8th
 Lawrence Teel.....9th
 Stacey Lauretti.....13th
 Larry Cook.....17th
 Megan Antonitto.18th
 Diane Hall.....22nd
 Pearl Straight.....26th
 Bruce Fisher.....27th
 Allison Kem.....27th
 Jane Fletcher.....27th
 Peyton Tripp.....28th
 Kelsey Bright.....29th



MUSIC

Camila and Ayn will be at church on Sundays to provide music (for the FaceBook Live services) while maintaining safe distances from each other. If you have any requests for preludes, special music, or postludes that are in the public domain (think classical music), let us know and we'll try to incorporate them!



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” ~ John 3:16

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children’s Christian Education: Sunday school will be resuming using Zoom this weekend/week, run by our Children’s Ministry Director Michele Ekholm. Michele has contacted parents for their input on days and times. She will email them again once the plans are firm. If you would like to have your children (K-6) take advantage of this opportunity, please reach out to Michele at micheleekholm@gmail.com.

If any parents are looking for activities to do with their children to celebrate Holy Week, they can check-out : www.childrensministry.com where they have 10 Holy Week Activities, wholly focused on Jesus.

Adult Christian Education is still possible through ZOOM and Pastor Colin is happy to help set up any small groups leaders who would like to continue to gather, or begin a new opportunity. Please reach out to Pastor Colin at pastor@victorpres.org if you are interested!

FROM THE TREASURER

Thanks to the support of the congregation and the community, the church is in a stable financial position *at the moment*. I'm going into the office about twice a week to sort through the mail, pay bills, and make deposits. Thanks to the many families who donate electronically via ACH, we have about half of what we need to continue paying essential staff and pay the required bills (RG&E, telephone, copier, etc.). I'm keeping a close eye on where we are and how we're doing. Please continue to donate and meet your pledges as best you can. You can mail in checks directly to the church, and we're also working on setting up an online giving portal (keep an eye out for communications regarding that). If at any time you need to make changes to your ACH or pledge, or have any concerns, please reach out to me or Courtney in the office.

~ Emily Wojcik

TREASURER'S REPORT (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY) For Month of February 2020

TOTAL GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$25,132.94
Income	19,908.41
Expenses	<u>17,644.68</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$27,396.67</u>

Offering	Actual	Budget	Difference
	\$15,804.01	\$16,250.00	\$(445.99)

Year-to-Date:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Operating Income	\$42,280.99	\$41,719.29	\$561.70
Total Operating Expenses	<u>38,730.88</u>	<u>41,056.14</u>	<u>\$(2,325.26)</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>\$3,550.11</u>	<u>\$663.15</u>	<u>\$2,886.96</u>

Adult Pledges Year-to-Date:

Actual	\$36,453.01
Budget	<u>32,500.00</u>
Surplus/(Shortfall)	<u>\$3,953.01</u>
	12.16%

Emily Wojcik
Treasurer

NEWS OF JOY!

WELCOMING STORIES OF JOY AND GOOD, DURING THESE HARD TIMES

WELCOMING NEW BABIES!



“Sweet new baby arrived in my extended family on March 20!!” - Sue Reh

*Shirley Roets’ 6th Great-Grandchild arrived! **Colton Dean Boya!***

*Friday, March 27
|4:33 am | 8lbs 2oz,
22.5 in,
Blessed parents
Sophie & Mike
Boya*

“Enjoying the unplanned gift of time together and ordinary hanging out at home – flying kites, having Allison discover her love of lopping shears as she helps with broken tree branches, lots of board games, and finally had a chance for Bill to get his childhood race car tracks out – they still work and the kids have had fun. Miss seeing everyone! Stay safe!” - Martz Family



“Feeling supported and valued by my manager and Paychex. She and the company itself have gone out of their way to be transparent about job security and have made their employees feel secure. Also, plank challenges with my girls, enough food to eat, FaceTime chats with besties and grandparent interviews. One of the Grandparent Interview questions- My girls asked my dad what made him know he wanted to marry my mom. His answer was very sweet. And I had never heard him speak like that before. If it wasn’t for this time home, I might never have.” - Tripp Family

“Barb turned 65 today! I'm blessed for 37 years of marriage with her and happy she is in good health. She shares her birthday with our 12 year old grandson Mason. All our family is well and blessed with 7 grandkids! Peace and good health to all our brothers and sisters! Get outside and enjoy some of our local hiking trails. FYI - Barb's senior high school picture.”- Cromwells



MORE NEWS OF JOY!



*“We are thankful that even times of loneliness that we have ways to connect with our family. We did a dinner together- all from different places but all made the same thing. Warmed my heart.”
- Kacey Holmes*

“The Wagner household is filled up again due to this crisis, and that brings so much joy. Dan and I have two of our boys home, a girlfriend, a NYC roommate, a high school friend, and our nephew. Everyone goes to their respective "corners" during the day to get work done, but we all come together for a family meal at night. It is such a joy to have them all around the table, enjoying each other's company, and keeping the laughs coming. The dog and two cats also can't believe their luck that there are so many people around who pay constant attention to them! Or, at least one cat thinks it's wonderful. The other not so much. We are grateful for all the people who are taking time to check in with us and my parents and surrounding us with prayers and words of comfort.” - Wagner Family

“I have a story of kindness which I am very proud of: My granddaughter is a junior at Vestal High School, outside of Binghamton. Yesterday she called a senior living home in their area to ask if the residents would appreciate receiving letters, cards, and artwork from kids and families now staying at home. Of course the answer was yes, so she got the contact information and has emailed out her message to the people in her neighborhood, her friends, and all the contacts her mom has (as a teacher in the district). The living center has even set out a special box on their porch so people can drop off their greetings! This so impressed me that a young person would be thinking of ways to reach out to others in a time like this.” - Donna Schake



AND EVEN MORE
NEWS OF JOY!

“Enjoying nature at Boughton Park” - The Mowers



“We are leaving messages on our driveway.” - Megan Antonitto



“Great news today. My Dad is on his way home from the hospital. A short stay after such significant surgery, but we are so happy to be getting him home. I suspect he is happy about it as well!” - Kathleen Wagner



“We celebrated Landon & Sydney’s 8th Birthday today! (March 25th); and we have gone for LOTS of walks so blessed for nature! Thank you god for Facetime, video chats so we can connect with friends & family & thank you for streaming “Live” for our virtual church! Hope everyone is doing ok and hanging in there!” - Black Family



“Our son Adam and his fiancé Michelle, engaged while stuck on the island of Vanuatu where they are doing volunteer work. Currently no airlines are flying out of there, but zero cases of the virus are there so they are safe, happy, and announced their engagement yesterday. God is Good, we are blessed.” - Amy Reinhardt



While we can't gather in the sanctuary to appreciate their beauty this Easter, we recognize in memory and honor, the people we love. If you purchased lilies, they are ordered. Please contact the office to make arrangements if you would like to pick-up.

EASTER LILIES

Sponsor

The Miles Family

In memory of:

Erik Daniel Miles (son/brother)

David & Lillian Deitrick Sr. (Mother & Father/Grandparents)

Elizabeth Miles (mother/grandmother)

Jennifer Worrall

Larry Lyons & Dale Worrall

Holter & Nelson
Families

Our Schue, Nelson, & Greenway Grandparents

The Dreeste Family

Robert Dreeste

Dave & Sue Henerson

Hugh & Betty Henderson

Sue Reh

David Reh

The Martz Family

Lewis J. Martz

Lewis H. Martz

Carol J. Ellison

Shirley Roets

Ardean Roets

David Roets

Marc Loan



Sponsor

Rich & Barb Cromwell

In honor of:

Family Promise of Ontario County

Holter & Nelson
Families

Our Holter Grandparents

Kevin & Julie Dickens

Mary Fulreader

Gerri Dickens

Melanie McNally



First Presbyterian Church
in Victor
70 East Main Street
Victor, New York 14564

victorpres.org
Phone: 585-924-2289

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

