

First Presbyterian Church IN VICTOR

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

Spring's Not Yet Here:

*As Lent begins with trees still bare,
There's hardly a new leaf anywhere;
But on the branch, if you look well,
Beneath the bark there's a gentle swell,
Where rising life begins to flood
And promises that new leaves will bud.
Then, warmed by sun and fed by rain,
All that seemed dead will bloom again.*

By Mala Powers

Grace and Peace to you members and friends:

Lent is a time where we anticipate the new life that comes with spring as the once dead, dormant, deciduous trees and plants bloom with new life. It is also that time in the Christian year where we meditate on our new life that comes from our dying and rising with Jesus Christ. Lent, from the word Lencten, means simply put "spring season, or time," and has a special place in church history where forty days before Easter Christians prepare themselves for the Easter story through prayer and fasting. The fasting aspect has taken on new meaning over the years and people have begun fasting from many different habits, foods, or lifestyle choices. We typically ask the question in Christian circles, "what are you giving up/what have you given up for lent?"

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday by planting seeds and recalling that "we must consider ourselves dead to sin, and alive to God in Christ." I encouraged us to keep cultivating our plants throughout Lent even as our spiritual lives are cultivated as well. We will need to prune whether that means letting some things die completely in our lives, or saying "no" to certain practices so that more fruit and more life may come, but we will also need nurturing as well. Like plants need water, sunlight, and good soil, so we too metaphorically need the right conditions to grow in our faith. What conditions help us grow? What practices might help us focus in?

(cont. pg. 2)



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MUSIC

If you have any requests for preludes or postludes, please let the office know. Courtney will pass the information onto Ayn.

Thank you!

(Cont. from pg. 1)

Lent has some unique traditional practices that are simple yet profound. Here are two I want us all to try: have one meal a week without any electricity (maybe by candlelight?), and second is start that meal with a single pretzel on your plate and say the pretzel prayer listed below. This simple practice reminds us of two things: first that we have a great deal of privilege and provision already and we should be thankful for all that we have, second is a tangible way to reconnect with God, family, and perhaps even nature. My hope is that even if you try this one time it will have an impact on your life and appreciation for all that God has given and all that God continues to provide for us.

As we heard Jesus say in John's gospel on Ash Wednesday: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Our nourishment as we cultivate our spiritual lives only comes from the vine, Jesus Christ.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." ~John 10:10

STAY CONNECTED



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/firstvictorpres/>



WATCH SERVICES ON YOUTUBE

First Presbyterian Church in Victor



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

victorpres.org



EMAIL US

OFFICE- office@victorpres.org

585.924.2289

May your journey towards the cross, towards Easter, towards Jesus be full of God's renewal of all things from the plants, to the trees, to our very hearts as well.

Pretzel Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless these little breads. Each time we eat them, may we be reminded of the special season of prayer and fasting that we are keeping. May they remind us of our need to come closer to you in prayer. May they remind us of those in need. Keep your loving arms around us, O Father, to protect us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Pastor Nick

Quotes, poem & prayer mainly taken from:

<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/how-to-celebrate/resources/church-year/lent>

Pastor Nick's Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Fri 9-4

pastor@victorpres.org

585-924-2289 Church Office

585-698-9064 Pastoral emergencies

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sundays, 10 am

*YouTube Livestream & In-person**

Sunday Service

*Please pre-register

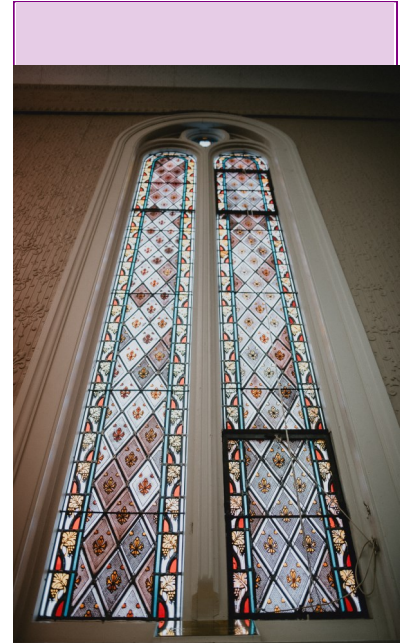
MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 7th~ 10am Sunday Worship– 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 14th~ 10am Sunday Worship– 4th Sunday in Lent

March 21st~ 10am Sunday Worship– 5th Sunday on Lent

March 28th~ 10am Sunday Worship– Palm Sunday



“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” ~ Genesis 3:19



Grab your coffee, bible, and gather your family around your computer for Virtual services or register to come worship in-person!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have an announcement you would like to share with the congregation and would like to be included in the Sunday morning worship slideshow? Please send to Courtney in the office office@victorpres.org by Wednesday at 10am, even earlier is welcome and appreciated.



FPCV CHRISTIAN ED. PRESENTS:

Intentional Growth of Your Personal Faith

A new opportunity to intentionally grow your personal faith through independent study, fun audio and video, and group discussions - totally flexible to fit YOUR schedule!

We warmly invite you to join us! As we approach Lent and a time of transition for our church, it is more important than ever that we continue our personal faith journeys and maintain our cohesiveness as a congregation. Using the Bible Project*

(read more about it here: <https://bibleproject.com/about/>), bi-monthly we will explore topics relevant to today to help all of us "experience the Bible in a way that is approachable, engaging, and transformative."

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time." ~1 Peter 5:6

You will explore each topic by listening to a short audio (~6 min), watching a short video (~6 min), doing scripture reading (~10 min) and answering 3-4 discussion questions. Then we will come together for a 1 hour zoom session to discuss our answers to the questions and support each other as we all deepen our understanding of our own faith.

The invitation is open to all, no sign-up is required, and your participation is welcome in one or all of the sessions, or anything in between.

Instructions

1. Review the list of topics and session dates below so you can plan your participation.
2. Review the TIPS section below so you get the most out of the study.
3. Click on the website link that corresponds to each Session to access the audio commentary, video, and questions for the TOPIC.
4. Listen to the commentary
5. Watch the video
- 5a. If you are now hungry for even more understanding of God's Word, we encourage you to access the additional resources that are located after the questions, however, we will not be discussing these in our zoom session.
6. Read the scripture
7. Answer the questions
8. Attend the session via Zoom to share your responses to the questions and be in fellowship with one another.

Upcoming Sessions

	DATE (All on Monday)	TOPIC	WEB LINK
Session 3	March 1 7-8pm	Gospel of the Kingdom <i>Even the most tragic events cannot thwart God's plan to restore our world.</i>	BibleProject: Gospel of the Kingdom <i>NOTE: audio portion was recorded in 2020</i>
Session 4	March 15 7-8pm	Good Friday <i>Good Friday remembers the depth of Jesus' love at his crucifixion.</i> AND Easter Sunday <i>Two thousand years ago, Jesus claimed victory over sin and death.</i>	BibleProject: Good Friday <i>NOTE: audio portion was recorded in 2020</i> BibleProject: Easter Sunday <i>NOTE: audio portion was recorded in 2020</i>
Session 5	April 5 7-8pm	Sacrifice and Atonement <i>In this week's study, we reflect on sacrifice and atonement.</i>	BibleProject: Sacrifice and Atonement
Session 6	April 19 7-8pm	Covenants <i>God chooses to partner with humans – but why?</i>	BibleProject: Covenants
Session 7	May 3 7-8pm	Holiness <i>In this week's Bible study, we take a deeper look at God's holiness.</i>	BibleProject: Holiness
Session 8	May 1 7-8pm	Witness <i>For this week's study, we're exploring the word witness.</i>	

Tips

- As you listen to the audio and watch the video, take notes on anything that jumps out at you (a phrase, an interesting graphic, something you didn't know).
- When reading scripture, jot down what portions of the scripture that are speaking into your heart or any questions that you have around meaning.
- Write down the answers to the discussion questions if you are able. Have your Bible handy at the group session so you can refer to scripture.



Don't forget! Panera bread donations are at the church on Wednesdays. Panera Bread graciously donates bread and baked goods for our community to receive at the church. Tables are set up in the back entrance of the First Presbyterian Church in Victor for those to drive up and grab whatever is needed. This is first come, first served. Please come and take whatever you need. There are many loaves of bread, dozens of bagels, and a table full of other baked goods! God is good!! Please reach out to anyone you know that may benefit from this donation, as we do not want any of this to go to waste!



"Feeding the Hungry with Dignity and Respect."

VICTOR-FARMINGTON FOOD CUPBOARD

Food Cupboard Customers: Our drive through is open Wednesday's 2 to 4 pm. You do not have to qualify to come to us, just come and stay in your vehicle. We will ask how many people are in your family and what town you live in, that's it! Our volunteers will put the food in your trunk. Please do wear a mask to protect our volunteers!

If you cannot come to the drive through on Wednesday please call 924-2720 and leave us a message. We will do our best to work it out. If you are quarantined, please do not come to our facility. Simply call (585)924-2720 and we will work out a no-contact option for getting food to you.

We are so grateful for all the donors and local partners we have had over the past year. Without you, the need would have been impossible to meet but with you--nothing is impossible and we will all be stronger.

"He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him." ~Mark 1:13

ONLINE GIVING PLATFORMS

Your continued generous financial support over this past year of closure and re-opening is graciously appreciated. A continued thanks to the many families that continue to give by ACH and send in checks, with your support we have been able to continue to serve our community and God's ministry here.

Did you know that we now offer an *online giving platform*?! Head over to the website and look through the Giving page for instructions on how to give from your computer via Vanco Payment Solutions or your smartphone with the **GivePlus** mobile app!

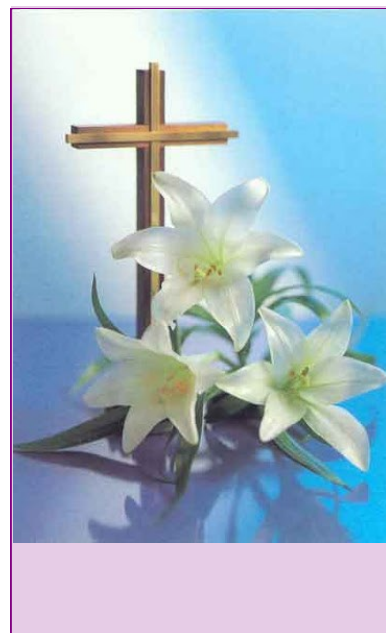


EASTER LILIES

Due to COVID-19, the worship committee is planning on a large floral arrangement for Easter in the sanctuary this year instead of individual potted lilies. Floral arrangement will stay in the sanctuary and there will be no option to pick up flowers.

We would like to offer the opportunity to the congregation to contribute to the purchase of the arrangement in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

Names and memory messages will be printed in April newsletter and in the Easter Bulletin. Suggested donation is \$10 each. Please place your order by March 14th. Please complete the information form and drop the it with your donation in the church mailbox, at the church office, or send to 70 East Main St., Victor, NY 14564.



*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!*
~Psalm 27:14

TREASURER'S REPORT, JANUARY 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY) For Month of January 2021

TOTAL GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Balance	\$31,640.15
Income	22,435.49
Expenses	18,043.24
Ending Balance	<u>\$36,032.40</u>

Offering	Actual	Budget	Difference
	\$20,246.70	\$15,000.00	\$5,246.70

Year-to-Date:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Operating Income	\$22,435.49	\$18,912.21	\$3,523.28
Total Operating Expenses	<u>17,543.24</u>	<u>18,893.13</u>	<u>\$(1,349.89)</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>\$4,892.25</u>	<u>\$19.08</u>	<u>\$4,873.17</u>

Adult Pledges Year-to-Date:

Actual	\$20,246.70
Budget	<u>15,000.00</u>
Surplus/(Shortfall)	<u>\$5,246.70</u>
	34.98%

Emily Wojcik
Treasurer

PER CAPITA 2021

Per capita for 2021 is \$35.14 per member. Per capita is a fixed annual expense of our church to support the work of our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA. If possible, we ask you to please make a contribution to support these important works. Member support for this cost is greatly appreciated any time in 2021.

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS!

1st	Cathy Agnello
4th	John Toomey
8th	Tom Hassett
8th	Munda Colyer
9th	Nicholas Rine
17th	Brian Wiser
17th	Jordyn Holmes
17th	Lisa Zieman
18th	Michele Liddle
19th	Gerrit Heerkens
19th	Kyle Holter
20th	Jason Black
22nd	Georgia Mowers
22nd	Michael Reinhardt
25th	Barbara Cromwell
25th	Landon Black
25th	Sydney Black
29th	John Gregory

MARCH

ANNIVERSARIES

3rd	Julie & Kevin Dickens
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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school is still on ZOOM. The Meeting ID for both sessions is 437 304 8258 and the password is 735049. If your children would like to join us, please email me at micheleekholm@gmail.com so that I can email you the materials that the children will need for each week's class. Grades 4-6 meet from 8:30 to 9am and grades PreK-3 meet 9:05 to 9:35am



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Date	PreK-3 Topic	4-6 Topic
March 7	Jesus Washes Feet	Jesus is Always With You
March 14	The Last Supper	Jesus Loves You
March 21	Praying in the Garden	Easter
March 28	Jesus enters Jerusalem	Easter

Important Dates

- March 1st – Women's History Month Begins
- March 14th – Daylight Savings Time Starts
- March 17th – St. Patrick's Day
- March 28th – Palm Sunday

Youth Activity

- March 13th – Ice skating at Bill Gray's Iceplex in Henrietta, 5:45-7:15pm

RSVP to Michele at micheleekholm@gmail.com

FAMILY PROMISE



Gather your teams, rev your engines,
THE 5TH ANNUAL
FAMILY PROMISE OF ONTARIO COUNTY
BED RACE
is coming!
Will it be Virtual? In person? A Hybrid?

Don't be caught flatfooted,
get your team ready NOW!



Mission: Unite the faith community, volunteer organizations and existing agencies in Ontario County to provide a pathway for homeless children and their families to secure reliable housing and self-sufficiency.

****There will be another volunteer training session in May. It is usually during the week after 6 pm and usually contains videos, hand outs, small group discussions, and snacks! If you thought about volunteering and/or would like more information about Family Promise of Ontario County, please consider this comprehensive volunteer training opportunity. Contact Rich directly at richcromwell@gmail.com or 585-370-0839.**



Family Promise Hosting Week??

During the Pandemic our hosting weeks look very different.
We cannot co-mingle, social distancing is tough with a two-year-old.
But our families still need our help!

FPOC now has 3 emergency shelter apartments that are housing 3 families in need. As a partner congregation, you can assist our guests with groceries and gift cards during hosting week.

AND

At any time you can volunteer with virtual tutoring or office support.

Contact Lauren Lamb
at fpocliaison@fpocny.org
or reach out to your coordinator for more information.

***Our host week is last week in March and gift cards can be mailed to FPOC at:
185 N. Main Street Canandaigua 14424**

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March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 2nd Sunday Lent Sunday Service Livestream , 10am Sunday School, 8:30-9:35am ZOOM Coffee Hour-ZOOM 11:10	1 Christian Ed. Study group 7pm—ZOOM	2	3 Panera	4 Bible Study— ZOOM 6:30	5 World Day of Prayer	6 Congregational Learning Day— Virtual 8:30- 11:30am
7 3rd Sunday Lent Sunday Service Livestream , 10am Sunday School, 8:30-9:35am Coffee Hour-ZOOM 11:10	8 International Women's Day	9 Session Meeting- ZOOM 7pm	10 Panera	11 Bible Study— ZOOM 6:30	12	13
14 4th Sunday Lent Sunday Service Livestream , 10am Sunday School, 8:30-9:35am ZOOM Coffee Hour-ZOOM 11:10	15 Christian Ed. Study group 7pm—ZOOM	16 Deacon Meeting- ZOOM 6pm	17 Panera	18 Bible Study— ZOOM 6:30	19	20
21 5th Sunday Lent Sunday Service Livestream , 10am Sunday School, 8:30-9:35am ZOOM Coffee Hour-ZOOM 11:10	22	23	24 Panera	25 Bible Study— ZOOM 6:30	26	27
28 Palm Sunday Sunday Service Livestream , 10am Sunday School, 8:30-9:35am ZOOM Coffee Hour-ZOOM 11:10	29 Holy Week Family Promise Host Week!	30	31 Panera	1 Bible Study— ZOOM 6:30	2	3

Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/firstvictorpres/
Give us a like!

Livestream services can be watched now on our **YouTube Channel**:
Search "**First Presbyterian Church in Victor**" and Subscribe!

Visit our website for News: victorpres.org



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Victor, New York 14564

victorpres.org
Phone: 585-924-2289

PLEASE
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