

First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia

April 2017 Newsletter

Come Celebrate the Easter Season First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia

27 Albany Street • 655-3191 • www.cazpres.org

Palm Sunday - April 9th 10:00 a.m.

Worship Prelude: "When the Saints Go Marching In" arranged by Tammy Waldrop, performed by the Cazenovia Presbyterian Ringers

Scripture: Matthew 21:1 - 11 Sermon: "Who Is This?"

Senior Choir Anthem: "Prepare the Way of the Lord" by Anna Laura Page

Postlude: "Praeludium in E Minor" by Nicolaus Bruhns

Maundy Thursday - April 13th 7:30 p.m.

Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness commemorates the final hours of our Lord's life on earth. Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

A choral and narrative work by Patrick Liebergen.

Violin Soloist: Mary Coburn

Easter Sunday - April 16th 10:00 a.m.

Worship Prelude: "Christ Lag In Todesbanden" arranged by J.S. Bach

Scripture: John 20:1 - 18 Sermon: "Hanging Onto Easter"

Trumpet Soloists: Kevin Johnson and Nick Barna

Senior Choir Anthem: "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" arranged by Beethoven,

Hopson Postlude: "Finale from Organ Symphony No. 2" arranged by

Charles Marie Widor



THE PASTOR'S JOURNAL

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers—
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without words—
And never stops—at all—*

—Emily Dickinson

The mystery of the resurrection has ever been, and will perhaps ever be, both the greatest obstacle for those who would otherwise embrace wholeheartedly this Christianity of ours, and at the same time the single greatest launching pad of stellar faith for those who are willing to embrace mystery for what it is, essentially, the *unknowable*.

And yet, when that mystery is fully embraced, it can also be immanently *known*.

“The earliest reference to the Resurrection is Saint Paul’s,” observes Frederick Buechner, “and he makes no mention of an empty tomb at all. But the fact of the matter is that in a way it hardly matters how the body of Jesus came to be missing because in the last analysis what convinced the people that he had risen from the dead was not the absence of his corpse but his living presence. And so it has been ever since.”

I would agree that, for the most part, we post-resurrection, post-modern Christians ultimately build our personal faith on the unique experience of Jesus Christ as a living entity in our lives, even as we bear witness to his presence in the world. Certainly, that is the most convincing element of our Christian religion.

And the one most starkly missing in those who are reluctant to so believe.

Yet, I also believe that – if we as Christ’s disciples are to plumb the profound depths of our faith during this lifetime – we must be willing to endure the sense of *divine absence*, as well; to indefinitely suspend the reason and rationale which strives to take charge when faced with the enigmatic serendipity of Holy Mystery.

That is where hope creeps forth. Without the perseverance of such hope, we shall walk through this world with only vague reminders, or nagging suspicions, that much deeper matters yet tremble underfoot. John Wolfgang von Goethe speaks to this life-truth in his poem, “*The Holy Longing*”: *Tell a wise person, or else keep silent,*

*I praise what is truly alive,
what longs to be burned to death.
In the calm water of the love-nights,
where you were begotten, where you have begotten,
a strange feeling comes over you
when you see the silent candle burning.
Now you are no longer caught
in the obsession with darkness,
and a desire for higher love-making
sweeps you upward.
Distance does not make you falter,
now, arriving in magic, flying,
and finally, insane for the light,
you are the butterfly and you are gone.
And so long as you haven’t experienced
this: to die and so to grow,
you are only a troubled guest
on the dark earth.*

THE PASTOR'S JOURNAL CONTINUED...

God has placed within each of us a holy longing. It is a longing that we, as people of faith, not only recognize to be part of our created condition, indeed we alternately joyfully and somberly celebrate its spurring presence in our lives.

It is the longing we liturgically – and soulfully – express during the long, dark season of Lent. And perhaps von Goethe's poetic suggestion is that a true understanding of *resurrection* – an understanding embedded at the very roots of our being – can only emerge *incarnated* into life and being through the metamorphic experience of a caterpillar no longer satisfied to simply crawl through the grass.

Like Stripe's chrysalis dream, in the classic children's book *Hope for the Flowers* (by Trina Paulus), "It got darker and darker and he was afraid. He felt he had to let go of everything . . . until *one day* . . ."

It's not an easy thing to walk through this world in faith and in hope and in peace. "Inside of us, it would seem, something is at odds with the very rhythm of things and we are forever restless, dissatisfied, frustrated, and aching." (Ronald Rolheiser).

Much like Stripe, we are intrinsically uncomfortable in the skin of the caterpillar. We instinctively know somehow that we are born to something more. We find our feet reverberating—with unsteady effect—to deeper tremors, as we creep along upon the earth.

"If we have learned the lessons of emptiness," said Thomas Moore, "we are ready to move closer to the mysteries, the real substance of the spiritual and religious life. Mystery is not just a great blob of the unknown . . . it makes no sense to try to prove or disprove a mystery, and certainly to banish its mysteriousness. An alternative is to discover how the mysteries lie at the very center of our lives and make us who we are. We can contemplate them, see how they affect our everyday life, and in ritual and story weave them into our imagination of life. Our devotion to these mysteries becomes our belief—not a purely intellectual assent to a body of propositions, but a totally engaging way of giving our lives direction and value." Concludes Moore, "We are born with the seed of belief buried deep inside us."

Maybe that *mystery* works best, after all, when let alone in the dark and given room to wriggle its way through heart and soul, creating the space for something new to develop. For it was the mystery of an empty tomb which gave birth to a winged church.

The Mystery of Resurrection, for the faith-full heart, is the seed of inspiration in Dickinson's wordless tune of *hope* for our lives.

And hope needs no words. Just as *mystery* needs no reason, nor rationale to be a powerful reality for us.

For, these are the things which bring forth the deep meaning and value – as well as resiliency – in life. These are the things which lift the eyes from the dark-stained grass, sweeping the soul ever upward towards heaven.

The tomb is empty! So that our hearts may be filled with hope!

May the mystery and the joy of Easter be a blessing to you this year and always!

In the Love of Christ Jesus,

Tom

Session Committee Assignments

2017-2018

Nominating: Sharye Skinner, Sue Perriello

Outreach: Linda Peters, Pam Johnson

Worship & Music: Sharye Skinner

Fellowship: Sue Perriello,
Beth Freedman

Christian Ed.: Bob Carr, Nick Kagey

Personnel: Amanda Furco

Clerk: Carla Kinney

Men's Breakfast

7:30 a.m. April 12th

Meeting House

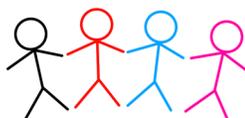
All men are welcome to gather for
breakfast and discussion!



Friendship Brunch – April 9th

Your Fellowship Committee will host a brunch after worship on April 9th, Palm Sunday. Scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice, milk and table service will be provided, and we ask that others in attendance consider bringing a dish of fruit, sweetbreads or other brunch item to share.

Providing a dish is optional, and there's no need for a RSVP. We hope that all will plan to stay a little longer on the 9th for some good food and great fellowship!



Palm Sunday

April 9th @ 10:00 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9th 7:30 p.m.

"Light in the Darkness" by Patrick M. Liebergen
A choral and narrative work

EASTER SUNDAY

April 16th at 10:00 a.m

Brass music by Kevin Johnson and his student,
Nick Barna

TOWN HALL MEETING

On March 12th we welcomed to First Presbyterian Church Beth Broadway, Director of Interfaith Works, along with staff members Olive Sephuma, Director of the Center for New Americans, and Harith Alnoami, Employment Services Coordinator, as well as other participants in IFW's refugee replacement program. The Panel Discussion held that day included a power point presentation, the introduction of a young Syrian family who shared their courageous story of flight from danger to a promising new life in America, and a time of Q & A from congregation members.

Those who attended the event found it both informative and inspirational. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), there are over 65 million people around the world who have been forced from their homes. Among them are nearly 21.3 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. Every single day, nearly 34,000 additional people are forcibly displaced due to conflict or persecution. This is a global crisis unprecedented in its scope.

Now we want to hear from you concerning this important issue. As Presbyterians we believe that God's Will is revealed through the hearts and minds of God's people. Our hope is to engage members of this congregation more fully in the discernment process we've begun regarding the potential mission of this church, specifically concerning the tragic plight of refugees.

Therefore, on April 30th we will be holding a Town Hall Meeting in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, immediately following the morning Worship Service. The primary topic of conversation will follow up on the previously mentioned Panel Discussion concerning refugee replacement, Interfaith Works current program needs, and how this congregation might participate in that crucial mission effort. Please join us for this very important community discussion.

And thank you for your continued interest and involvement in the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

~Rev. Tom



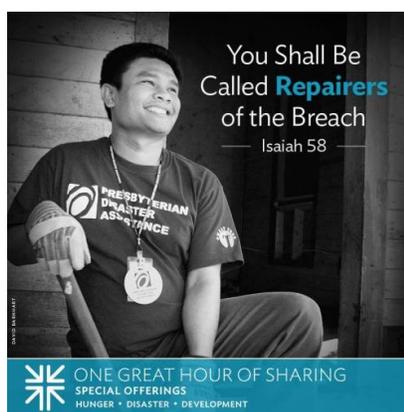
During Lent there will be a box in the Narthex to collect the health and hygiene kits mentioned during the Minute for Mission on February 26. Please place the following items in a zip-lock type bag. We will be collecting these throughout Lent and they will be delivered soon after Easter.

Thank you so much in advance for your continued generosity.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE KITS

- * 1 hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32", (no fingertip, dish towel, micro-fiber or bath towels)
- * 1 washcloth
- * 1 wide-tooth comb (removed the package)
- * 1 fingernail or toenail clipper (removed from the package)
- * 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- * 1 bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper
- * 10 standard size bandages (e.g. Band-Aids brand)

NO TOOTHPASTE PLEASE



In our world today, millions of people are living in hardship, poverty, and oppression. They're toiling to provide for themselves and their families in places where access to food and water is scarce. They're rebuilding their homes and their communities after war or natural disasters left them ravaged. They're striving against systems of injustice that make it difficult for them to better themselves and their communities.

In Isaiah 58, God calls us to this new kind of fast—not to give up our bread, but to share it with those who need it most. The worship and piety God commands of us brings life and flourishing to the hungry, the poor, the vulnerable, and the oppressed. It is this type of worship that is at the heart of One Great Hour of Sharing. This Offering supports ministries around the world working with people in need to respond to their immediate challenges and address the root causes of poverty and oppression. [Text OGHS to 20222 to give \\$10 | presbyterianmission.org/give/oghs](https://presbyterianmission.org/give/oghs)

Answer God's call today by giving to One Great Hour of Sharing and help build a more just, resilient, and sustainable future for people around the world.

Upcoming Events

<u>Alice Edwards Circle</u>	Meeting: April 19th @ noon	~ Board Room
<u>Board of Deacons:</u>	Meeting: April 16th @ 11:15	~ Library
<u>Board of Trustees:</u>	Meeting: April 17th @ 6:30 p.m.	~Work Room
<u>Christian Education:</u>	Meeting: April 17th @ 11:15 a.m.	~Wendell House
<u>Evangelism & Fellowship:</u>	Meeting: April 30th @ 11:15 p.m.	~Work Room
<u>Men's Breakfast</u>	Gathering: April 12th @ 7:30 a.m.	~ Meeting House
<u>Newsletter Deadline:</u>	April 20th!	
<u>Session:</u>	Meeting: April 17th @ 7:15 p.m.	~ Meeting House
<u>Worship & Music Committee:</u>	No April Meeting-- Next Meeting May 9th @ 6:00 p.m.	
<u>Town Hall Meeting</u>	April 30th, immediately following service	~Sanctuary

Alice Edwards Circle

Next Meeting:
April 19th @ Noon
Meeting House

Hostesses ~ Diane Campbell, Janet McCobb

Program:

“God's Story--Our Story: Connecting for Life”

Speaker: The Reverend Dr. Ginny Smith

Please bring a sandwich, a smile, and a personal care product for CazCares.

GOD'S STORY- OUR STORY: **CONNECTING FOR LIFE**

Led by the Reverend Dr. Ginny Smith
Wednesday, April 19, 2017 @ Noon

Through engagement with various stories from Scripture, Ginny will be leading us in reflecting upon our own relationship with God. As we explore the connection between the people we meet in the Bible and our own lives today, we will experience spiritual practices that can open us to God's Spirit working in our lives bringing us new life and a deepening sense of God's guidance and renewal.



Sunday School News

Sunday School Schedule

APRIL 2- Children 3rd grade and younger go to Sunday School
Older children remain in service for communion

APRIL 9- Palm Sunday, Regular Sunday School

APRIL 16- Easter -Children remain in church

APRIL 23- Regular Sunday School

APRIL 30- Regular Sunday School

Confirmation Class

7th grade and older students are invited to join the 2017 Confirmation Class . Rev. Oak will lead these classes that will take place May 7, May 14, May 21 and May 28 at 11:15. The new members will be received on June 4. Please contact BJ Palmer or the church office if interested.

Hygiene Kits

The children in the Sunday School assembled 24 hygiene kits for Church World Services. These were done in conjunction with a lesson about caring for all of our neighbors.

Palm Sunday Celebration

The Sunday School will be passing out palm crosses to the congregation on Sunday April 9th. We will also display some new banners for Palm Sunday.

Church Picnic

Mark your calendar for the annual church picnic. It will take place June 11 following the service on the side lawn. The CE Committee will supply hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream cones.



We are looking for **11** readers for our Tenebrae service on April 13th at 7:30pm. This is a beautiful candlelit service that involves many members of our Church in music and verse. Would you like to join us? Please e mail caz1stpresby@windstream.net, talk to a Worship and Music member in church, or sign up on the board in the Meeting House next to the coffee station. Thanks so much and Blessings!



From the Music Director

Lenten greetings to you from the Caz Pres Music Department!

As we journey through Lent this year, we've been trying new ways to make for a more reflective and prayerful worship experience through the music we present to you. The largest goal we're trying to achieve is having the choir downstairs and using the piano more. We get a lot of great feedback about the intimacy of having the choir joining the congregation downstairs, though it does add some logistical challenges for myself and the choir. Secondly, we've been able to sing more acapella or unaccompanied music.

Finally, I've scaled back the postlude to be possibly a little more reflective and less of an organ performance. My chief objective is to create a great level of contrast between the Lenten season, and Easter and following weeks.

Speaking of Easter, Kevin Johnson and his student, Nick Barna will be joining us on trumpet for Easter Sunday this year. Kevin as you may know is a High School brass teacher here in Caz, and Nick is a junior at Caz High School. We're excited to have both coming to play for us and look forward to an outstanding service!

Finally, please note our us Maunday Thursday Tenebrae service on April 13th at 7:30 PM. This year we will feature "Light in the Darkness" by Patrick M. Liebergen. This moving service with music and readings brings us through the story of the Passion through arrangements of some well-known hymns and other stirring music and chant to support the Bible Verse. Please join us for this special service!

~Vince Guarneiri

Donna Denison wishes to thank everyone in our congregation for the wonderful response to her request for financial support of the Annual MS Walk held on March 5th at Destiny USA. Many generous donations were submitted to MS Resources, which will benefit over 1500 clients in the Central NY area. A wide range of services are provided by this organization which enrich the everyday lives of those living with Multiple Sclerosis. Your support was greatly appreciated.



Multiple Sclerosis Resources
of
Central New York, INC.®



<http://cazpres.org/>



Outreach Update

At February's Outreach Committee meeting, we approved donations to the following organizations: MS Resources, Madison County Office for the Aging, Ronald McDonald House, College Guild, and CRIS/CAT. We will also cover the cost of shipping the hygiene kits to Church World Services.

The Outreach Committee is, once again, collecting the hygiene kits for Church World Services. A box that is located in the narthex has been filling up with these kits, thanks to the generosity of our congregation. This drive will continue until Easter Sunday (April 16). So, if you haven't had a chance to assemble a kit, there is still time!

The Committee would like to thank Elaine Horstmyer for her many years of service on Outreach, and we welcome new member, Carolyn Holmes.

We wish everyone in the congregation a Happy Easter and a warm, sunny start to spring!

Linda Y. Peters and Patricia Johnson
Co-chairs

W & M is asking for volunteers to do a Children's Sermon every other Sunday. Please contact Roseanne Courtade or let the office know if you'd enjoy a moment of learning and fun (read a story, show and tell, sing a song) with our young people.



Easter Lilies

You are invited to make a contribution toward Easter Lilies by filling out this form.
Your dedication will be included in the Easter Service Bulletin.

DONOR'S NAME: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In the amount of: _____

***Please make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo "Flowers."
Clip and mail to Treva, or bring to Sunday's Service. Thank you!***



Among Our People...



In our nation and around the world

People in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, the Philippines, and other nations torn by war and strife. Especially in Aleppo, and, recently, the Christmas Market attack in Germany.



If you have a name to share, please contact the church office (655-3191).

The men and women stationed throughout the world in service to our country.

In the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse

The congregations and faith communities of: Isaiah's Table, Syracuse; Korean Church of Syracuse; Park Central, Syracuse; Robison Memorial, Syracuse; South Valley, Syracuse.

In our Congregation

Bonnie Arnold (sister of Nancy Sagar Loffredo)
Brian Ball (brother of Bruce Ball)
Laura F. Brown (daughter of Shirley Falkner-Davies)
Margery Caywood (mother of Shelly Brooks)
Norm Gibbon (father of Sue Perriello)
Candy Glenn (friend of Donna Denison)
Helen Ifflander (mother of Nancy Sagar Loffredo)
Evonne Jones (friend of Patricia Johnson)
Kate Kegans (cousin of Leigh Garber)
Sheri-Anne Mitchell (daughter of Barbara & Raymond)
Charlie Poole (student of Shelly Brooks)
Nancy Rauh (family friend of Leigh Garber)
Terese (Karl Monson's caregiver)
Annette Tuttle (Dick Tuttle's niece)
Jan Anthony Vinopal (grandson of Jana Laxa)
Carol (Will) Porter (wife of Bill Porter)
Marion York

DID YOU KNOW?

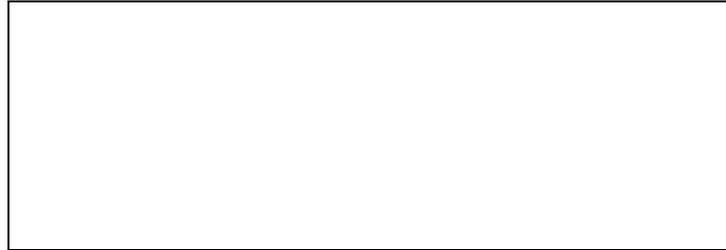
Reverend Oak's
Sermons are uploaded on our
website each week.!

<http://cazpres.org/>

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this terrific
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*First Presbyterian Church
of Cazenovia*

Spring into
Health and Wellness
Fair

April 1st, 2017



<http://cazpres.org/>
Sermons posted each week



Pastor's Journal
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Newsletter