

# TIDINGS

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## **“Lent: a Time of Prayer, Fasting, and Self-Examination”**

The Season of Lent is now upon us! It is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

In Lent we remember that new life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church’s peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the “old self.” In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God’s gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the “old self” in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, “Death is no more!” and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of “prayer, fasting and almsgiving” leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ’s passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ’s path of servanthood through the Lord’s Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus and his promise of salvation, Hallelujah!

(Adapted from Worship Resources for Lent, PCUSA website)

Blessings,  
Pastor Kirsty

## Session Highlights

Pastor Kirsty joined us as moderator at her first meeting of Session this past Monday. The Budget Report was presented and discussed. Pledges and gifts from the congregation are very strong and we are so very thankful for your assistance in maintaining our church life as well as planning for future programs.

There will be a "Minute for Mission" during worship over the next few weeks. A "One Great Hour of Sharing" presentation shall also be scheduled soon.

Session is addressing the continuation of childcare for families attending worship with younger children. Volunteers are needed to care for these children during services. Attempts will be made to contact those that performed this duty in the past to see if they are interested in pursuing this important function again.

A ceremony for the installation and ordination of new Officers of the Church occurred on Sunday, February 19, 2023.

New chairs have been appointed for committees. Although the Personnel Committee has enough members, if you are at all interested in serving on any of these committees you are most welcome! Please contact either Elizabeth Bayer, Church Secretary, or consult your Church Directory.

New Committee Chairs:  
 PNS: Victor Jenkins  
 Congregational Life: Andy Brussel  
 Personnel: James Gruppe  
 Christian Education: Stephanie Stine  
 Welcome Committee: Doug Russell

### 2023 Session Elders

Tricia Adams	Kathy Bowen	Andy Brussel
Mark Chamberlin	Jamie Gruppe	Victor Jenkins
Lillian Olsen	Doug Russell	Stephanie Stine*

*\*Clerk of Session*



Stay tuned for details regarding the Easter Lily sale! Information will follow!



## March Birthdays

02 – Rick Smith	14 – Diane James
06 – Miranda Pennock	15 – Brennan Gruppe
06 – Howard Rose	17 – Pat Hovey
07 – Fred Mathieson	26 – Nancy Dobbins
09 – Patricia Johnson	29 – Dan Sheehan
11 – Eleanor Pennock	31 – Barb Winegard

## March Anniversaries

09 – Frank & Diana Anastas

Add your or a loved one's birthday or anniversary date to our list by contacting the church office.

### 2023 Board of Deacons

Shane Adams**	Bea Boak	Peg Brussel
Marge Calkins	Andrea Ducharme	Tom Eckrote
Heidi Henderson	Marty Pond*	Nancy Runyans
Martha Stevens	Barb Winegard	
	<i>*Moderator</i>	<i>**Co-Moderator</i>

## From the Deacon's Desk



- We welcome new Deacons- Shane Adams, Bea Boak, Andrea Ducharme, Tom Eckrote & Nancy Runyans- when you see Shane, Bea, Andrea, Tom & Nancy in church please thank them for serving our church!
- We delivered Valentine Bags to several of our shut-ins.
- We continue to support, with donations from the congregation, the BeeFull food pantry at Baker High school.
- Please contact any of the Deacons if you know of someone we should reach out to.
- If you would like to bake for coffee hour or just help, please let Marty Pond know.

## Pillowcases for Interfaith Works!

For several years before the Pandemic hit, a group of ladies met in the Fireside Room each January to sew beautiful brightly colored children’s pillowcases. These were donated to Golisano Children’s Hospital until the Pandemic hit and they stopped accepting donations. We have been storing the 160 pillowcases we sewed in early 2020 until we recently learned Interfaith Works was looking for pillowcases for Ukrainian refugees. They were delivered in February to a very grateful coordinator at Interfaith Works. This was a labor of love and it’s wonderful to know they will delight children starting a new life in our country!



## Seamstresses Wanted



Interfaith Works is an organization in Syracuse whose mission is to “affirm the dignity of each person and every faith tradition, build racial and religious equity, and create bridges of understanding among us”. One of their important programs is to help refugees and immigrant families integrate into their new communities. They have a warehouse of donated furniture and household items used to set up apartments for refugees and help them with everyday needs. Several large boxes of fabric were recently donated and Interfaith Works has asked our church to make curtains from the fabric. The curtains are fairly simple. They will be various sizes and have a casing at the top, hem at the bottom and the side edges are turned under. If you would like to sew a few pairs of curtains, please let me know and I will get the fabric and thread to you. Thank you! Barb W.

## Nursery School News!



Although the playground was covered in snow or too wet to use for most of February, we took advantage of a couple of the milder days and took the kids for a walk. During March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday, as well as St. Patrick’s Day. The 3’s class will spend a week focused on nutrition. In order to do this in a fun and engaging way the classroom will be transformed into a grocery store, where the kids have a chance to shop, work as a cashier/bagger. It’s such a fun experience!

We are currently registering students for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them call me at (315) 635-7391.

*-Jessica Newcomb, Director*

## The March Calendar

### Sundays 10 am

Worship in the sanctuary

### Mondays

6:30 - Bell practice in the Sanctuary

7:00 - Scouts in the Fellowship Hall

### Sun., March 5

10:00 - Worship & Communion

3:00 p.m. The Installment of Rev. Kirsty H.

Dickson-Maret, in the Sanctuary

### Mon., March 6

10:30 - Worship & Music, Media Center

### Tues., March 7

10:00 - Book Club, Media Center

### Sun., March 12

Daylight saving time begins

2:00 - Celtic Festival in the Fellowship Hall hosted by Baldwinsville Public Library. More information to follow!

### Tues., March 14

7:00 p.m. - Session, Media Center

### Weds., March 15

2-4 p.m. - Female Charitable Society Board Meeting, Media Center

### Tues., March 28 (date has been changed)

7:00 p.m. - Deacons, Media Center

**March 5 - John 3:1-17**

**March 12 - John 4:5-42**

**March 19 - John 9:1-41**

**March 26 - John 11:1-45**

***Remember in Your Prayers  
& Correspondence,***

#### ♡ HEALTH CHALLENGES

Ralph Cowdery

Nancy Dobbins

Mimi Dundon

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*Generally, names remain on the prayer list for one month. Please let the church office know if you wish otherwise.*

## "Souper Bowl" Sunday

We brought back our tradition of "Souper Bowl" Sunday by sharing pots of soup, grilled cheese sandwiches and assorted desserts. We had a good turnout and everyone filled up before going home to get ready for the big game!



**From the Mailbox**



First Presbyterian Church- Thank you for so much for supporting Bee Full Food Pantry. We continue to help students at Baker who have food insecurities and your kindness helps a great deal. We could not do it without your support.

Take care,  
Bee Full

Once again due to the overwhelming generosity of groups and individuals, the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau was able to help 126 families in Baldwinsville have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season! Without your support, hundreds of individuals would not have received a Christmas dinner complete with a turkey, as well as extra food, clothing, coats, boots, hats and mittens, house items, books, and toiletries. Most importantly, the Christmas Bureau was able to "assist" Santa Claus by providing toys and filled stocking for every child! Children under age 3 received a baby bag filled with items such as blankets, diapers, clothes and toys.

We could never accomplish any of this without you. The entire Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau committee and our parent organization, the Baldwinsville Volunteer Center would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks. Every year, we are amazed at the generosity and compassion of donors such as yourself! We also hope you will think of us again next year! Please like our Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau Facebook page for information on the 2023 Christmas Bureau! We hope you have a happy, healthy, and blessed 2023!

Lauri Bernstein, Christmas Bureau Coordinator  
[mrsb4126@gmail.com](mailto:mrsb4126@gmail.com) or (315) 727-5435  
Janet Therrien, Christmas Bureau Chairperson  
Stephanie Pelcher, Christmas Bureau, Assistant Co-Chair

During times like these, we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us. You're truly a blessing. Your kind expression of sympathy is greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking time from your day to help our family.

*The family of Mary E. Hamilton*

**News on the Scouting Front**

This month the scouts went on many trips. First, we did a Big Chill where we all jumped in a very cold lake. Then we went to the Klondike Derby where our troop took 1st place. We did many activities such as building a tent blindfolded in 20 minutes, first aid activities, knot tying, sawing logs and many more. Coming up soon we are going up to Red Field to build snow caves and sleep in them or you can choose to sleep in a cabin.



-Noah Arnold,  
First Class  
Troop Scribe

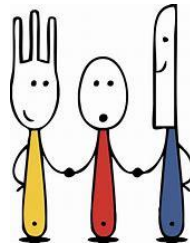


*Church Office – Education Center 64 Oswego St.*

*Pastor-----Rev. Kirsty H. Dickson-Maret  
Administrative Assistant-----Elizabeth Bayer  
Clerk of Session-----Stephanie Stine  
Deacon Moderator-----Marty Pond  
Director of Music & Choir-----Rheta Jenks  
Organist -----Lee Johnston  
Nursery School Director-----Jessica Newcomb*

# Community Dinner!

Our next Community Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 6. We'll have Ham & Scalloped Potato Casserole, Lemon Glazed Carrots, Waldorf Salad, Rolls & Butter and Assorted Cakes.



The February Mid-Winter Picnic (aka Community Dinner) was lots of fun and enjoyed by all! Many thanks to everyone who pitched in to bake brownies, work in the kitchen, serve coffee, fill plates and take-out containers, prepare desserts, deliver dinners, and clean up.



*Pastor Kirsty & Victor Jenkins made deliveries to those who couldn't join us in person!*



*A great clean-up crew is a lot of help!*