



Vision

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A newsletter of the First United Presbyterian Church
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



March 2012



A Day at the Beach by Leslie Kelly
(based on Luke 5: 4-7)

Abundance, filled to overflowing with blessings -

A net filled with fish,

A heart filled with love,

An all encompassing peace.

My cup runneth over with Living Water,

As I am fully immersed in the Living Word,

Where heaven touches earth,

This day, when I met Jesus.



A Pastoral Note from Rick Otty

Dear friends at First United,

I am looking forward to March 1st, when I will join you in ministry during this continuing, interim time in the life of the congregation. While I am not jumping into beginning work prior to that date, I have started some files as information has been forwarded to me, and have noted some initial meetings and events on my calendar. I am also grateful to Jackie Pinkowski for initiating a time for us to visit to enable a smooth transition between our interim pastorates.

Our journey together begins during the second week of Lent. The lectionary texts for the Sundays of March are rich and diverse, making stops at the covenant promise offered in the Hebrew Scriptures, including at Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments; then, retracing our steps back to the penitential Psalm 51 of Ash Wednesday, asking God to give us clean hearts and right spirits; and standing by Jesus as he reminds his disciples what it means to follow him, and then watching him enter the temple full of money changers. We are called to serve Christ in the everyday world. Worship is the time when we come together to thank God for the gift of faith, and to form and reform the foundations that allow us to be faithful disciples. Each Sunday, I look forward to seeing you in worship, if you are able.

Interestingly, March 1st is also the date, six years ago, when my wife, Lynn, and I drove two Budget rental trucks from Pittsburgh to East Greenbush, where we have had an apartment since. I had just completed a 44 month interim pastorate, and our next felt "call" was to move to be close to and a support for my parents, then in their late 80's and still living in their home. For me, this was a return home, having grown up (and been ordained in) Westminster Church in Albany, and graduating from the Milne School. Other than a couple summers at home, I had been away for 38 years, with college in St. Louis, seminary in Chicago, and ministries in Dayton, Joplin and finally, eighteen years in Western Pennsylvania, the first five working with Habitat for Humanity, and then thirteen years in interim ministry with five congregations.

As some of you are aware, upon our return to the area in 2006, and before I was called to serve as designated pastor of State Street Presbyterian in Schenectady, Lynn and I occasionally worshiped with First United. In addition, I have had the opportunity to preach several times. Yet, while there may be more familiarity between us than is typical for many interim pastorates, I still approach our time together as one who comes as a stranger with "new eyes." As I have done with other congregations, I can alert you to ways in which the church can be more visitor-friendly and welcoming to those who are unfamiliar with, and at times confused by our Presbyterian ways or First United's traditions or habits.

On a personal note, my hobbies are woodworking, cooking, and photography. As I write this I am listening to a Mozart flute concerto CD. I still don't have a cell phone. I generally arise early, cherishing this quiet time for prayer and study at home.

In a very real sense, I am surprised I will be with you. The first week of last December, I was visiting with the general presbyter of Boston Presbytery about openings there, since it is our hope to move to that area to be close to our daughter and her family, who live in Cambridge. In fact, in mid-January, Lynn began caring for our grandson there four days a week, when our daughter returned to teaching. Yet, because there were no firm possibilities in that area, but even more, because I still feel it is important to visit my parents regularly, now in their nursing home, I was open to ministry opportunities here. So, while somewhat surprised we will be serving together in the coming year, I am also looking forward to this important time preparing for a new era of ministry for First United.

With Christ's peace,



Scripture Readings for March

March 4 -

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

March 25 -

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 11 -

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 18 -

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Ministry of Music News from Maury Castro

We will skip the prose this month in favor of a photo-mosaic of the Troy Children's Chorus "Diner" Dance, held on February 11. Through dinner tickets, donations, and raffle baskets, the chorus raised over \$2000! The proceeds will go toward financing the upcoming trip to Maine for a choral festival sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association. Many thanks to Bonnie Kerr for coordinating this event, and to all who supported in so many different ways!



Troy Children's Chorus in Concert

Don't miss this annual Troy Night Out concert on Friday, March 30, at 6:00 pm. This event takes place in the Troy Atrium (3rd and Fulton). Having just returned from a festival performance in Maine, the chorus will share its magic with Troy!
www.troychildrenschorus.org

Troy Children's Chorus is awarded a Community Art\$Grant!

The chorus successfully competed for a \$2500 grant for 2011. Community Art\$Grant is a program funded by The Arts Center of the Capital Region through the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency. The funds will go toward new music, just compensation for the accompanist, a rehearsal/performance aide, and marketing/publicity.

Dedicate an Anthem

Congregants are invited to donate \$25 toward the purchase of new choral music, and the church will match that \$25 in order to purchase a new anthem (each anthem in our library costs about \$50). The donor may dedicate the anthem to the person(s) or event of their choice, and when that anthem is sung in church, this will be recognized. To participate in this ongoing program, please contact Maury A. Castro.

Faith Education News from Leslie Kelly

Meal prep for Joseph's House - March 10 at 9am. Children and their parents are invited to help with meal preparation. We will also help deliver the meals to Joseph's House.

Game Night – Postponed. This was originally scheduled for March 10.

Food Fair – Sunday, April 1 after worship. Each family is asked to bring a favorite main dish, salad, side dish, dessert or beverage. There will be a \$5.00 charge for individual grazing rights or a \$10.00 charge per family. Grazing rights allow you to pick whatever food you would like for your meal. Some food will be individually priced. The money raised will go to Heifer International. Please let us know what you will be bringing, sign-up sheets will be out in fellowship hall on March 18.

Faith Ed Schedule for March

March 4 – Children will remain in worship

March 11 & 18 – Classes for children after the children's message during worship

March 25 – Children will remain in worship

Read to Feed program through Heifer International “Since 1944 Heifer International has helped more than 12 million families in more than 125 countries move toward greater self reliance through the gift of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture. The impact of each initial gift is multiplied as recipients agree to Pass on the Gift by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another family in need.”

All children are invited to participate in Heifer's Read to Feed program. Basically the children ask sponsors to pledge money for each book they read (or have read to them) from February 19- March 31. At the conclusion of the program money is collected and put toward the share or purchase of an animal to go to a family in need. We will be choosing which animal(s) we would like to help purchase in order to make a difference in the lives of a struggling family.

This program is a way that children can help make a difference in the world and “love” their neighbors. At the conclusion of the program each child will receive a certificate.

Read to Feed booklets with additional information are being distributed in Faith Education classes. If you would like a booklet or would like to be a sponsor, please see Leslie Kelly.

Lenten Study – Adult Education – Walking the Way of the Cross with Paul

“Lent is, among other things, a journey on the way of the cross – a journey of learning how to appropriate Christ's teaching about “taking up the cross” (Mark 8:34-35) for ourselves. This study will look at how one early Christian missionary, teacher, and theologian sought to do just that in his work and in his life. Participants will examine a number of passages in Paul's letters in order to reflect on the place of the cross in Christian lives today and to reflect on their own practices of Christian spirituality and ethics in the light of the experience, teaching and faith of the apostle Paul.”

Please join us March 4, 11 and 18 after fellowship time in the Rose Room for this Lenten “journey”.

Dear FUPC members and Friends:

There are no words to thank you for all that you have done this past year, especially this past month. The words, cards, gifts, tears and so many other ways you have expressed your appreciation for our ministry in this place. We were overwhelmed that so many of you turned out for the good-bye pot luck. I had hoped to have a few minutes to say some words of appreciation for all of that you have meant to us. Unfortunately that didn't take place. We did have a chance to speak with many of you one on one to share our love and best wishes and for that we are very grateful.

Ron and I have spoken often about how quickly we were welcomed and became part of the family. Your love makes our leaving difficult. When I started Interim Ministry we knew that one day we would run into a congregation that we would find saying goodbye so difficult. Well, we found it. Thank you for your love and for the work that we have done together to further God's kingdom.

The one thing that is constant in today's world is change. God calls us to say hello and then goodbye. With every goodbye there is a wonderful hello waiting. It is with gratitude that we have had this time at FUPC. You have the opportunity to welcome and fall in love with Rick and we have the opportunity to expand our circle of friends as we begin our ministry in Ohio. God is good and always is working for good. We all have been changed through this last 15 months. Memories have been made, ideas have been shared; God works through change and for that we are all grateful.

Thank you everyone. Thank you for the gifts that were given to us at the party. So many gifts did not have names and so I am not able to thank you individually. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Your generosity has been outstanding.

We would love to hear from you. Please stay in touch. As we leave I am no longer your pastor, Rick is. Welcome him just as you did Ron and me. Therefore, no advice will be given about how things are going or what should be done at FUPC.

Blessings,

Jackie and Ron

New address: 405 E. 14th St., Dover, OH 44622





Are you a creative person? DO YOU LIKE COMPUTERS?

JOIN OUR CHURCH'S GEEK SQUAD !

Our church's website is an important communication and outreach vehicle. Keeping it up to date and attractive is important as we welcome visitors and invite a new permanent pastor.

If you are interested in helping out with our website or would like to assist with computer projects at church, please call the church office or contact David Lanoue david@unitedprestroy.org or Sue Steele at ssteele@unitedprestroy.org

MISSION TRIP

Pat Carlson is approaching a milestone birthday on April 4th and would like to celebrate by coordinating a mission trip. Before you say..."That's not for me...I am too old!". You are very wrong! This trip is for you!!! A meeting will occur on March 11, 2012 at 11:30 for all of those who are interested. If you cannot meet at that time but would like to know more about it, please contact Pat at 874-1809.

What's new with Facilities, Finance and Stewardship?

A big thank you to those who have sent in \$42 for help with the per member payment to the presbytery. If you have intended to help the 2012 budget in this way, it is not too late. Earlier newsletters had articles about what the payment covers, they are archived on the church web site www.unitedprestroy.org.

Joan Rogers reports that 45 units have pledged their estimated giving for 2012. Others give regularly, but do not pledge. It is not too late for you to send in a pledge of support for First United ministry.

The group has recommended and the session has approved an extension of an agreement to March 20 between the session and K&L for property management services. Both groups wish to continue, but there are some issues to be negotiated as the relationship goes forward.

Duncan and Cahill have finished their work on restoration after the March 26, 2012 fire. A request has gone to the insurance company for release of funds for that part of the work. Stained glass work is still to be completed.

K&L has been asked to assist in marketing the 3 rental apartments and the Carriage House space. Details of financial compensation will be in the new contract.

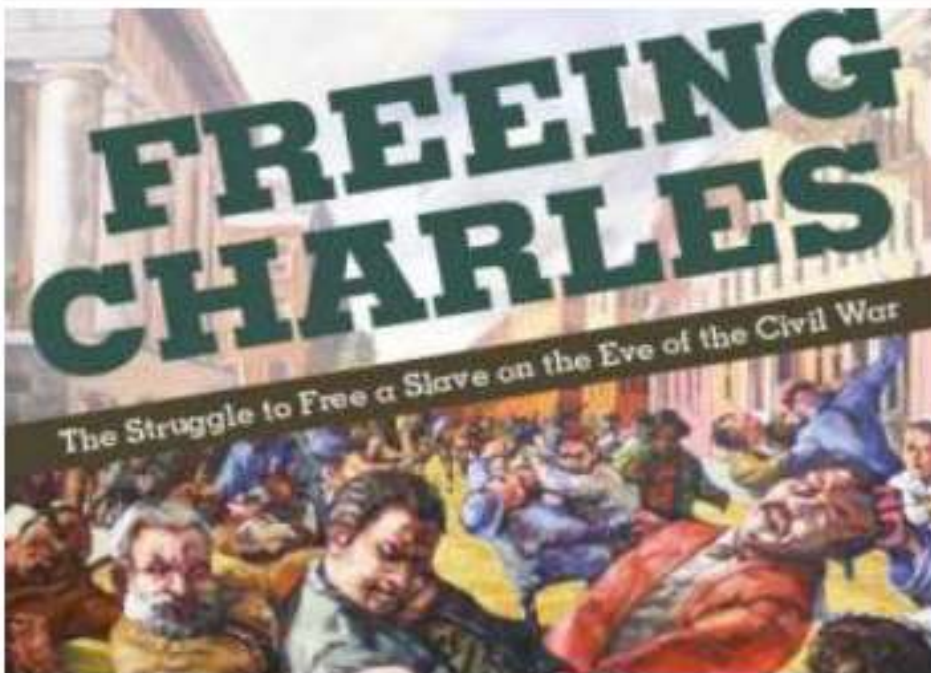
Announcements

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TAUM Spring Assembly

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 6pm

St. John's Episcopal Church, 146 First St., Troy



Presenting

Scott Christianson,
award-winning author of
*Freeing Charles: The
Struggle to Free a Slave on
the Eve of the Civil War.*



Executive Director:
Rev. Donna Elia

Office: (518) 274-5920
Fax: (518) 271-1909

392 Second Street
Troy, NY 12180

Freeing Charles recounts the life and epic rescue of captured fugitive slave Charles Nalle of Culpeper, Virginia, who was forcibly liberated by Harriet Tubman and others in Troy, New York, on April 27, 1860.
— *University of Illinois Press.*

"Christianson explores the complications of the law, and he captures the drama of Nalle's escape and attempted recapture and the complexities of citizens willing to defy the law for a higher principle."--
Booklist

"A thoughtful biography."--*The Journal of Southern History*

Chicken Marsala* dinner
tickets are \$12 for adults.

\$6 for children 12 and under.
(tickets are payable to TAUM
in advance)

Reservations by April 3rd

Please call: 274-5920 ext 201

Reports will be received and
board members will be elected.

*A vegetarian option will be
available

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!

MOVIE NIGHT

March 30th at 7:15 - Free Admission



“Frozen River” - Directed by Courtney Hunt - Melissa Leo, Misty Upham, and Charlie Mc Dermott

In the Rose Room on March 30th, we will be watching “Frozen River”. This film is about the very desperate mothers struggling to keep their families together, and the lengths they will go to protect their children. Life in upstate Massena, NY is as harsh and barren as the frigid landscape. This bleak terrain brings together two hardened single mothers trying to make lives for their children. Lila (Misty Upham) is a widowed Mohawk whose mother-in-law “stole” her newborn son a year ago. Ray (Melissa Leo) is a mother of two sons whose gambling-addicted husband just left town with the down payment for their new trailer home. Faced with few options to make ends meet, Ray and Lila forge an uneasy alliance and embark on an illegal venture transporting immigrants into the US across Mohawk territory. With each trip, Ray earns money for her trailer and learns more about the dark side of immigrant smuggling. The two women decide to make one last run across the frozen river. When things go wrong and circumstances spiral out of control, Ray and Lila must quickly make life or death decisions based on their newly formed bond and love for their children.

Melissa Leo was nominated for an Oscar Best Actress award. The film was the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, “Frozen River” raises issues around illegal immigration, the damage of addictions, and the importance of family unity. This movie is “R” rated for some strong language and is 93 minutes long.

Light Fare served before Movie Night - March 30th - 6:00 PM BRING A FRIEND!

Menu will be determined at a later date.

Reservations are a MUST. Price per person is \$10.00. Proceeds from the sale of the food will be donated to Morris Fork Crafts. To RSVP please call the church at 272-2771 or Trudi Wybourn at 283-4807.



Morris Fork Crafts was started in 1978 by the Morris Fork Presbyterian Church as a means of income, hope, and self-respect for the people in the area. The church closed in 1999. After several moves, Morris Fork Crafts relocated to Jackson, KY. Morris Forks Crafts, Inc remains a non-for profit cooperative with the same mission. They will be marketing their crafts at designated established businesses located in southeastern Kentucky and over the internet. They continue to create beautiful crafts in the Appalachian mountains of southeastern Kentucky.

We will also be taking donations of Fabric, Thread, yarns, beads, needles, thimbles, scissors, and other materials for making crafts. These materials will be sent to the crafters of Morris Fork Crafts to help them to continue to be self-sustaining.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

<u>ORDERS DUE SUNDAY, MARCH 25</u>			
<u>Plant</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
6" Easter Lily	\$9.00		
6" Floral Mum	\$9.75		
6" Begonia	\$9.75		
6" Hyacinth	\$8.50		
6" Tulip	\$8.50		
6" Azalea	\$16.00		
6" Hydrangea	\$16.00		
TOTAL	_____		

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

IN MEMORY OF:

IN CELEBRATION OF:

I WILL PICK UP MY PLANTS ON EASTER SUNDAY _____
 PLEASE DELIVER MY PLANTS TO SPECIAL CARE MEMBERS _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FUPC AND NOTE
 EASTER FLOWERS IN THE MEMO.

Session Notes

Chandlee Gill - Clerk of Session

On February 27, the Session met with Committee on Ministry representatives (Jerry McKinney and Bill Morris) to review the Appreciative Inquiry report and received permission to proceed to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. The session expresses great thanks to the AI Team, Don Drew, Dana Parker and Laura Rogers for leading the process. If you have not already signed up for one of the groups working on identified goals, please consider doing so now.

In other business,

- Chandlee Gill and Sue Steele were elected Co-clerks.
- Began work to organize for 2012, and agreed that it was important to have Rick Otty involved in formation of committees, task forces and teams.
- Approved a \$700 grant from the Salvato Fund to support Rachel Kerr's trip to Guatemala.
- On second reading, approved an increased draw from the General Endowment to support the 2012 budget.

Other topics discussed included the need to approve communication with staff, members and friends.

- The session is seeking input related to the renewal of a contract with K&L for another year. A key concern is how Sunday activities might be accomplished without a paid person on site. Contact Peggy Smith Savchik via email pegsmith@msn.com with your comments, suggestions and concerns.
- If you are interested in working on updating of the web site, contact David Lanoue or Sue Steele. (dlanoue279@gmail.com, sjwsteele@aol.com) Technology needs both techno savvy people and creative people.

March Birthdays

- 2 Ben Hallett
- 5 Kerry Welcome
- 9 Betsy Belle Eadie
Steven Bowes
Karen Marbot
- 10 Susan Steele
- 11 Dale Golden
- 14 Alex Duggan
- 19 Patience Zewou
- 20 Emily Husson
- 21 Nathan Parmelee
- 22 Dana Crobok
- 23 Philip Wentworth
Fran Oakes
- 24 Brendan Lanoue
- 27 Dan Rogers
- 30 Aline Wilson



March 2012

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 10 am AA Group
4 9 am Chancel Choir 10am Worship 11:30 Adult Ed 7:30 NA Group	5	6 3:45 Troy Children's Chorus	7 4:00 Bible Study	8 4:30 Worship Committee 6pm Music Committee Meeting 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 10 am AA Group
11 9 am Chancel Choir 10am Worship Children's Faith Ed 11:30 Adult Ed 11:30 Mission Trip Meeting 7:30 NA Group	12	13 3:45 Troy Children's Chorus 5:30 MLMT	14 4:00 Bible Study	15	16 6:00 Albany Symphony's "Compose Yourself"	17 10am AA Group 10am Labyrinth
18 9 am Chancel Choir 10am Worship Children's Faith Ed 11:30 Adult Ed 12:30 Deacons' meeting 7:30 NA Group	19 7:00 Membercare and Outreach	20 7:15 Faith Ed Meeting	21 2:00 Worship at the Eddy 4:00 Bible Study	22 4:00 Fa-Fin-Stew Meeting 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 10am AA Group
25 9 am Chancel Choir 10am Worship 11:30 Adult Ed 7:30 NA Group	26 6:30 Session	27 7pm Sustainable Living	28 4:00 Bible Study	29 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7:15 Movie Night	31 10am AA Group

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors:

Where People with Differences Unite in Christ



First United Presbyterian Church
1915 Fifth Avenue
Troy, New York 12180

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

In this issue:

*Notes from Rick, Maury, and Leslie
What's happening in the community
And more...*

First United Presbyterian Church Officers for 2012, 2013 & 2014

The Session

Moderator - The Reverend Rick Otty

Class of 2012: Pat Carlson, Peg Drew, Chandlee Gill,
Karen Harpe

Class of 2013: David Lanoue, Dan Rogers, Trudi
Wybourn, Sue Steele

Class of 2014: Courtney Savaria, Jennifer Nelson, Florie
Parmelee, Peggy Savchik

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2012: Bob Harrington, Bonnie Kerr, Carol
Harrington, Claudia Schwendeman

Class of 2013: Shirley Bowes, Steven Paul Bowes II, Dana
Parker, Shirley Street

Class of 2014: Martha Juenger, Marsha Mintz-Botsford,
Pat Rudebush, Kerry Welcome

Vision Newsletter is published 11 times a year by

First United Presbyterian Church, Troy, New York

Rick Otty	Interim Pastor
Maury A. Castro	Minister of Music
Leslie Kelly	Faith Education Director
Carlie D'Annunzio	Financial Analyst
Carla Fisk	Administrative Assistant
Shirley Hinkamp	Editor

To Contact Us: you may call **518-272-2771**

you may write to us at

1915 Fifth Avenue Troy, New York 12180

or you may email us at **info@unitedprestroy.org**

**For pastoral emergencies call (518) 279-7401 or
(406)794-9360**