



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR'S NOTE

'The Way of The Wilderness'

Dear friends on the journey,

Elton Trueblood once said:

'Life began in the garden; but faith began in the desert.'

This is the lesson we are invited to learn together as we continue our pilgrimage through the Season of Lent.

Our Scriptures invite us to begin a 'prayerful fast' on Ash Wednesday, letting go of our expectations of lavish abundance, in order to more fully appreciate the gifts of manna and mercy that sustain us through the desert.

Our children will lead us through this 'Wilderness School' on the Sundays in Lent.

Our Sunday Singers will lead us in prayerful taize, as we listen for the leadings of the Spirit in our common life.

And our Adult Education time will invite us to envision the 'land of promise and plenty' awaiting us on the other side of this wilderness journey.

I urge each one of you to participate fully in 'The Way of The Wilderness,' that our common faith might be reborn.

Together ...

We ...

With gratitude for the journey,

In This Issue:

Page 1 – Pastor's Note
 Page 2 – Worship Themes in January
 Page 3 – Music Ministry News
 Page 4-5 Children's Ministry News
 Page 6 Church Community News
 Page 7- Mission Committee News
 Page 8 - Calendar

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00am worship with nursery care available.

The Way of Life!
Transfiguration Sunday

February 7, 2016

Based on 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Children's Time: Fully Alive

Children's Church: children remain in worship to participate in communion

Birthday Sunday/Extended Fellowship Time:

SouperBowl of Caring

Children turn Palms to Ashes with Pastor Gusti

Deacons Meeting

The Way of The Wilderness

The Way of No Thing

Ash Wednesday

Meager Meal with Communion

February 10, 2016 – 6pm – Fellowship Hall

Based on 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

A time of emptying, letting go, and holding on to one another

The Way of Wandering

First Sunday in Lent

February 14, 2016

Based on Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A time of facing the fear of the wilderness and making our way together

Children's Time: Enrolling in 'Wilderness School'

Children's Church: Sharing Bread on Our Journey

Adult Ed: Vision 2024 – What to Keep; What to Leave Behind

The Way of Trust

Second Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2016

Based on Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

We move through the wilderness of Lent, encouraged to trust in the future, even if present experiences might count against that.

Children's Time: Abraham and Sarah

Children's Church: Trusting God

Adult Ed: Vision 2024 – Imaging with our 'Vision Board'

The Way of Blessing

Third Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2016 – Simple Communion

Based on Psalm 63:1-8

A psalm about spiritual longing and desire engages our senses – thirst, taste, sight, touch, hearing – and our entire bodies in praising God.

Children's Time: Praising God in the Wilderness

Children remain in worship to participate in The Sacrament of Communion

Adult Ed: Feeding the Hungry! (Mission Committee)

SUNDAY SINGERS IN LENT

FEBRUARY 14, 21, 28, MARCH 6 AND 13

During the season of Lent the Sunday Singers will be our liturgical musicians as we highlight the music of the Taize community. The songs of Taize are prayers, simple but not simplistic. Their aim is to enable all of us to pray together, participating fully in a common prayer that leads toward contemplation.

Song is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. These simple songs of Taize, using just a few words, express a basic reality of faith. As the words are sung over many times this reality gradually penetrates our whole being and awakens our inner life.

The Sunday Singers will be learning and leading many new responses interwoven throughout our worship in the coming season. We welcome your participation as you wish and are available. We rehearse on Sunday mornings only, at 9:00am. The music is guaranteed easy to learn, and will involve the congregation.

If you wish to sing on any Sunday Singers dates, please see or call me so I can add your name to our email list for receiving advance information.

May we enter this new season with open hearts ready to make more music together!

Judy Moyer, volunteer coordinator
283-7663 or moyer.judith@gmail.com

**Flowers bring joy and color to our Sunday worship space.....
would YOU like to request flowers in 2016?**

You need not have a special request,
but that is ok too to ask for one or two bouquets for a certain Sunday

Please sign up on the flower chart in the back of the sanctuary.....
send your check...\$30. (one vase and \$45. two vases) to the church office
or put check into offering plate on any Sunday

I really love doing the arrangements,
but I take suggestions of color and kind of flowers you would like as well

Many thanks
Pat Carlson (flower lady) pcarl@verizon.net

Souper Bowl of Caring at FUPC Sunday, Feb. 7



***Please support our youth as they tackle hunger in Troy
Help fill the soup pots with cash and donations.***

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun,

to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The senior high youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian liked the idea so much they decided to invite other area churches to join the team.

Twenty-two Columbia churches participated that first year, reporting their results so a total could be determined, and then sending all \$5,700 they had raised to area non-profits.

That was 1990.

Since then, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary more than \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves

the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving,
inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

PLEASE GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS YOU ARE ABLE

SO THAT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY LEARN FROM YOUR EXAMPLE

WHAT IT MEANS TO

'FEED THE HUNGRY IN BODY AND SOUL'

Lessons:

Beginning in Lent, we journey with the Hebrew people out of Egypt and into a new land of promise and plenty. The focus on their journey, Jesus' journey toward the cross, and our journey of discipleship today drives us toward a deeper relationship with God, and greater understanding of our faith. During this season the children will learn about a ritual of thanksgiving, about God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, and a song of joy in the Psalms. They will also hear two stories about extravagant love.

Action:

As the children explore the themes of gratitude, trust, forgiveness, and compassion, we will act upon them in several ways during February. On Super Bowl Sunday, they will lead our Souper Bowl of Caring project - encouraging us to give money to those in need. The children will decide the recipient of our gifts and reflect on how that contrasts with the huge amount spent on advertising during the Super Bowl game. The children will help Pastor Gusti burn last year's palms for this year's Ash Wednesday service to be held on Feb. 10. Families will be invited to use special coin banks during Lent as a service project.

Many thanks to all who took the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training to help us keep First United a safe place for our children. Anyone interested in teaching, assisting, or helping with the nursery on Sundays, please volunteer!



Children's Ministry Leaders

Three Sundays during worship, after the anthem, we will be offering lessons for our children in the relocated Wheeler Room off the sanctuary balcony. These lessons and activities will be guided by the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum. This fall we will be studying the Season of Creation. **Please consider joining our team of teachers and assistants. If we recruit more teachers, then each member of the team will only teach a couple times a season.** Call or email Sue Steele if you are interested (588-9492 or sjwsteele@aol.com).

Please Donate to the Deacon's Fund

The Deacons would like to remind folks that your donations help us to not only provide for some of our own congregational needs, but also provide financial support to numerous non-profit agencies that offer a variety of services to those in need. Deacon's Fund envelopes can be found in the pews and donations can also be sent to the office, earmarked 'Deacon's Fund'. Thanks very much for your continued support.

February Birthdays

10 Bob Rogers
11 Martha Juenger
12 Marsha Mintz-Botsford
13 Carol Harrington
16 Laura Ferris
22 Bonnie McCaig
23 Judy Moyer, Linda Demers

We are updating our birthdays calendar. Please send updates and additions to info@unitedprestroy.org or call the office at 272.2771

Happy Birthday!

Room Reservations

The office formerly occupied by the Stated Clerk of Albany Presbytery has become a 'Community Room' for use primarily by our tenants, including Narcotics Anonymous but is also available if reservation is made in advance. This frees up the Rose Room as a primary meeting space for First United. However, we continue to urge you to make sure you reserve the Rose Room well in advance, as we cannot guarantee its availability to you if you do not. You can reserve a room by filling out the form on the website. The website address is: <http://www.unitedprestroy.org/> ,

The page link is: <http://www.unitedprestroy.org/index.php/connect/building-use-requests-form/>

SAVE THE DATE!

The Re-Energize Mission Committee has been actively promoting awareness of **HUNGER Issues** through the Adult Education time.

Over the last year plus, the FUPC congregation has heard from representatives from Bread for the World, Capital Roots, Hunger in Troy and the Oakwood Community Center.

FUPC members also generously support the Joseph's House wintertime *Inn from the Cold* program by providing snacks for the first week of each Inn.

So, now it's time for fundraising!!

Please *SAVE THE DATE-* **Sunday, February 28th**
and plan to attend a **HUNGER AND FOOD** event in the Fellowship Hall after Worship!

Further details will be announced in the worship bulletins in February. Do come!

Capital Root's mission is to nourish healthy communities by providing access to fresh food, and green spaces for all. They accomplish this through a variety of programs: **Community Gardens**; the **Veggie Mobile** which delivers fresh produce to urban neighborhoods; the **Produce Project** where Troy High School students operate a year-round urban farm; and **Healthy Stores** (produce is sold at urban convenience stores, including their own store on River St.). They also educate young inner-city students about nutrition using music and games; and deliver excess produce to food pantries and shelters.

Drop into their new building - the **Urban Grow Center at 594 River St.** to learn more about them, volunteer your time, and pick up some fresh veggies! (M-F, 9-5)

Overnight Shelter Volunteers Needed

Joseph's House & Shelter and a coalition of churches in downtown Troy, are seeking volunteers to provide overnight hospitality and assistance with the **Inn From The Cold (IFTC)** program.

Volunteer shifts are an overnight, 10 hour shift from 9:30 pm -7:30 am, and a trained Joseph's House employee is present during these overnight shifts.

Please contact Martha Juenger, juengerm@nycap.rr.com or Janet Douglass, jdouglass@josephshousetroy.org at Christ Church for more information

CALENDER

Monday, February 1

10:00am LVORC-CR

Tuesday, February 2

3:30pm Troy Children's Chorus-FH,RR

6:30pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting-CR

Wednesday, February 3

10:00am Albany Presbytery Board mtg.-CR
4:00pm Teach the Preacher-RR

Thursday, February 4

10:00am- LVORC-CR

Saturday, February 6

9:00am Young Actor's Guild-FH

Sunday, February 7

10:00am
Worship

10:00am

Nursery Care

11:00am

Fellowship Time

11:30am

Adult Ed.- RR

11:30am After worship Souper Bowl of Caring to Tackle Hunger-FH

11:30 Deacon's Mtg-MR

7:30pm

NA - SHL

Monday, February 8

10:am- LVORC-CR

Tuesday, February 9

3:30pm Troy Children's Chorus-FH,RR

Wednesday, February 10

4:00pm
Teach the Preacher, RR

Thursday, February 11

10:00am LVORC- CR

Saturday, February 13

9:00am Young Actor's Guild-FH

Sunday, February 14

10:00am

Worship

10:00am

Nursery Care

11:00am

Fellowship Time

11:30am

Adult Ed.- RR

7:30pm

NA - SHL

Monday, February 15

10:00am- LVORC-CR

Tuesday, February 16

3:30pm Troy Children's Chorus-FH,RR

6:00pm Faith Journeys Group-MR

Wednesday, February 17

4:00pm Teach the Preacher-RR

Thursday, February 18

10:00am- LVORC-CR

Saturday, February 20

9:00am Young Actor's Guild-FH

Sunday, February 21

10:00am

Worship

10:00am

Nursery Care

11:00am

Fellowship Time

11:30am

Adult Ed.- RR

7:30pm

NA - SHL

Monday, February 22

10:00am LVORC- CR

Tuesday, February 23

3:30pm Troy Children's Chorus-FH,RR

4:30pm LVORC-Famous Ladies Tea mtg-CR

Wednesday, February 24

4:00pm

Teach the Preacher, RR

Thursday, February 25

10:00am LVORC-CR

Friday, February 26

6:00pm- Movie Night-RR

Saturday, February 27

All day- TCC-Sanctuary
9:00 am – Young Actors Guild-FH

Sunday, February 28

10:00am

Worship

10:00am

Nursery Care

11:00am

Fellowship Time

11:30am

Adult Ed.- RR

7:30pm

NA – SHL

Monday, February 29

10:00am LVORC-CR