

“We’re making friends of ALL people through Christ.”

April 2020

Pastor’s Corner



I remember, when I was probably 9 or 10 years old, asking my Dad why they called it “Good Friday.” I couldn’t think of anything good about it. He gave me a good answer, but I had to learn a lot about suffering over the next couple of decades before I felt like I could start to understand what he meant.

Most of us come to church to feel good. Holy Week services don’t really do that. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are among the lowest attended services of the year. They’re solemn and sad and uncomfortable. So what’s good about them?

Nothing, really. Not exactly.

But what’s good alongside them is the evidence in the story that God works good out of even the most desperate circumstances. I look at Holy Week as two services: Palm Sunday, and then one long service that stretches from Thursday night through Sunday morning. Thursday and Friday are the bad news that makes the Good News so powerful. Without the cross, there is no empty tomb.

And so as painful and uncomfortable and not fun as it is, we come together like those first disciples to watch and pray and wait.

Peace,
Michael



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Church Office:
9 River St., Hudson Falls, NY
12839 (518) 747-3013
Open Tues - Fri, 10am - 2pm
(Except Summer)
Jen Douglas, Office Manager

Church:
5 River St.
(518)747-2203
Rev. Michael Plank, Pastor
Home Phone: (518)636-3200
Pat Barron, Clerk of Session
Home Phone: (518)747-4573

Sunday Worship 10am
Nursery Care Available!
Church School K-8 (Sept—May)

Elder of the Month:
Windy Clark
Trustee: Dave Trevett
Care & Compassion:
Bonnie Trevett, Norma Shaffer,
Roberta Clute

This newsletter is made possible through our giving to FPC Hudson Falls.

Session Notes - Regular Meeting March 11

Session Meeting - March 11, 2020

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls, NY was held in the church house on March 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM beginning with prayer, worship service and Communion by Rev. Plank. The reading was Mark 4: 1-20

Visioning/Education: What are some things which we can do to enhance our Spiritual Formation to help our church to grow and promote fellowship among the Congregation? Some suggestions: "Spirits and Scripture", Sock Hop. After discussion a motion made and seconded to do Spirits and Scripture. Heather volunteered her home for the first meeting April 26. Approved. A group who would like to join would meet monthly for reading and discussing scripture. We could begin with what we know about the Bible and branch out from there. Rev. Michael is working on a Map of Spiritual Formation similar to one he had done with his New Worshiping Community Underwood Cross-Fit. There would be categories to assess where you are in your Spiritual Formation. Every time you move up a level, it is a community celebration with the others in the group. He is continuing to work on the map.

Treasurer report for February, 2020

Balance January 31, 2020	\$ 4,935.53
Receipts February 2020	\$ 9,730.23
Total receipts and balance Feb.	\$ 14,665.76
Disbursements February, 2020	\$ 10,934.84
Balance February 29, 2020	\$ 3,730.92

Note: Beginning balance for the year was \$6,000

Note: Ending balance for February 28, 2018 was \$2,946.99 with a beginning balance for 2019 was \$6,000.

Pastor's report: *Accepted an invitation to serve on the Koinonia Team of Albany Presbytery - a team devoted to improving the communal life of presbytery members

*Began premarital work with Katie Metz and Brendan Matice, a couple for UPCF.

*Began earnest development of a Map of Spiritual Formation for unchurched/dechurched people through work with NWC Coach Brian Clark. This will be a long process, but may well prove useful for our congregation. Invited on a May retreat through Office of NWC (PCUSA)

Clerk: Attended Small Church Forum with Diane Lapan; attended Census 2020 meeting and will be passing out information regarding Census 2020.

Attendance February Attendance: 2/2 60 Souper Bowl Sunday... mild and overcast; 2/9 50 cold and icy; 2/16 56 cold and windy; 2/27 warm, sunny 50* Communion 3/1 served to 50.

Correspondence Thank you: Presbyterian Mission: Thank you for \$117.38 donated to the Presbyterian Hunger fund; also from Presbyterian Mission Special Offerings thank you for \$67.50 for the Peace and Global Witness Offering (AKA Peacemaking) From the Open Door for the donation from Souper Bowl Sunday; Message from Presbytery asking for donations toward a retirement gift for Stated Clerk Dan Rogers; Thank you from Woodmen Life for allowing them to use our facilities for their meetings... accompanied with a check for \$250 to help defray costs.

Committee reports:

O&E: We collected the following Hunger Fund - \$28.07 Food Pantry - \$19.00

Trustees Feb. The following items were discussed and /or actions were taken: 1. Still looking for a convection oven for the church kitchen to replace the old one that failed. 2. Discussed lighting in the church, want to change to LED light recessed bulbs to make areas brighter.

Budget and Finance: Working on Online giving. Application submitted and accepted.

Christian Ed: \$90.00 collected from Souper Bowl Sunday purchased Stewart's cards for our food pantry.

Old Business:

The St. Patrick's Day dinner has been cancelled due to extenuating circumstances.

New Business :

Request for a donation toward a retire-

ment gift for Stated Clerk of Presbytery Dan Rogers. The money will be donated to the Oakwood Food Pantry in his honor. Motion made to donate \$50. Seconded. Passed via email with no objections. Check sent.

Report from Small Church Forum attended by Diane and Pat: It was a discussion of the book Canoeing the Mountains by Todd Bolinger. It compares the trip of Lewis and Clark with leadership and small churches experiencing the different types of challenges. The second part of the day was in small group discussion about what churches are doing to grow, become solvent, and promote fellowship. We explained from our church about Rev. Plank's New Worshiping Community and about our 5th Sunday services. Our group liked the idea of 5th Sunday informal service. No action needed.

Report from Census meeting attended by Pat: The meeting was held to make the community aware of the importance of the Census count. The full count means fair distribution of

federal dollars that support state, county and community programs for the next 10 years. This includes libraries, community centers, Head-Start and many other programs. This population count also determines how many representatives our state can send to Congress. No action needed.

Elder of the Month: April: Windy Clark; May: Carol Moyer; June and July: Mike Barron

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE
WEDNESDAY, April 8, 2020**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 with closing prayer by Pat Barron.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Barron, Clerk

Census 2020 - Pat Barron



United States[®]
Census
2020

Hey folks. Yes, I am a community member on another committee which is responsible for passing on information regarding the 2020 Census. I am passing on information I receive as part of that committee:

You should have received your census 2020 invitation in the mail by now (unless your mail goes to a PO box, then you will receive it another way). The Census Bureau is working hard to modify plans as necessary in response to the coronavirus situation and they are working to revise and modify their plan to meet Census 2020

goals for a Complete Count using the avenues that are still available. If you received yours, you can go on line to 2020census.gov. Your individual house code is in your invitation. You can also complete the census by phone. The phone number is also on the letter. **COUNT EVERYONE STAY-ING IN YOUR HOME ON APRIL 1, INCLUDING BABIES AND TODDLERS... THEY COUNT TOO!** College students, nursing home and hospital residents on April 1 will be counted WHERE THEY ARE on that date.

I've filled out mine. Have you?????

Special Meeting - March 17

A Special Session meeting was held via Zoom virtually on March 17.

The meeting was held via Zoom at 7:33 PM (this also allowed our Florida Session members to participate. The following were in attendance: Patricia Barron, Clerk, Elders Michael Barron, Windy Clark, Heather Fowler, Roger Gilbert, Diane Lapan, Carol Moyer, Julia Miller. Unable to attend Irene Marshall and Trudy Scheidegger.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how we should follow the CDC and State guidelines for the number of people (10) allowed to gather at one time due to the Corona virus.

When contacted via e-mail on Saturday, March 14, there were no objections to canceling church for March 15 and 22. The service will be conducted by Rev. Plank, Music Director Jodi Ogburn, and Soloist Lauren Grogan. We discussed we must follow further guidelines. CDC recommends suspending gatherings of more than 10 for a period of 8 weeks. We need a way to work on spirituality for our congregation community and working on our community contact.

Suggestions for Spirituality:

- Continue on Virtual worship service: it's live, safe, uses 4-5 people
- Send Responsive readings via PDF
- Have people type in or let Rev. Plank know of prayer requests
- Send out the sermon to those who do not have internet access or computers.

Suggestions for Community:

- Rev. Plank will send out a letter to let people know what we are doing
- Call those assigned on our emergency closing list once a week to keep in touch (Pat will update)

- Put on our Facebook page for people to need something and have someone drop it off on their doorstep
- Rev. Plank will work on a map for people to use to contact others who live nearby
- The office will be closed. Jen can do most things from home. Motion made, seconded and approved to allow her to do that and receive her pay.
- Thursday ministry: Bring a washable table over and set it up at the outside entrance of the church house under the porch. Rev. Plank will set it up on Thursday from 10-12. We will rely on our Faith that people will be honest.
- Ceola will do a cleaning of the church and church house

Other groups who use our buildings: TOPS is taking a break. VITA - March 18 will be their last day. Woodmen postponed meetings until May. Operation Santa has cancelled meetings. Motion made and seconded to allow AA and Al-Anon be their own guide as to what they will do to follow the small group guidelines. We will contact them with our concerns and if they use the building, they will need to wipe down tables and sanitize where they met and used. Passed with no objections.

Summary:

Worship will be virtual only; Holy week will have to be determined. **All** Church activities cancelled until further notice.

Our next regular meeting will be virtual on April 8.

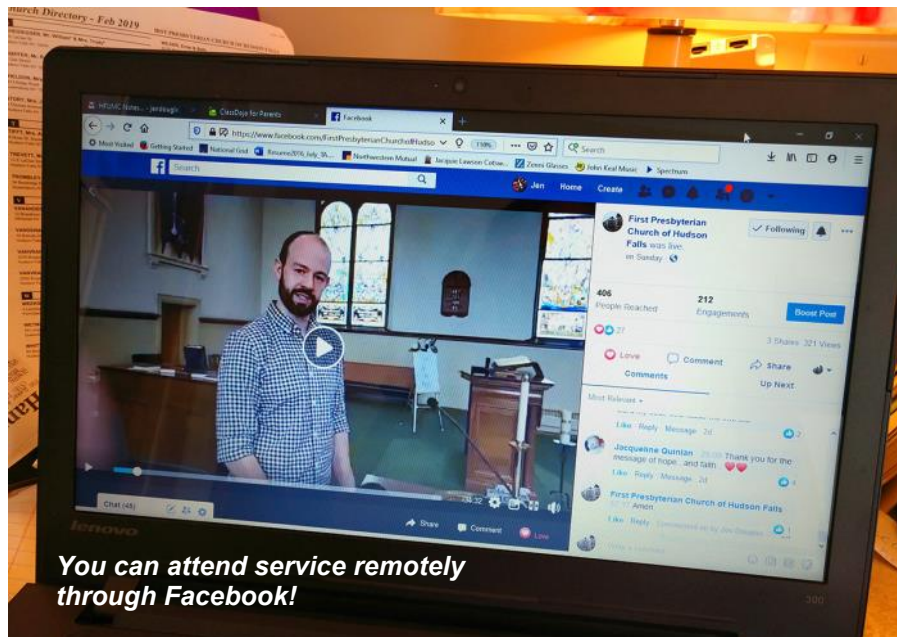
Respectfully submitted,
Pat Barron, Clerk

From the Office

March has ushered in an unprecedented time for all of us. Worship has been moved temporarily to online means. This is a wonderful way to still attend church, while heeding the directives to stay away from large gatherings. However, some of us who don't often use computer technology may be feeling "out of the loop".

There are things you can do to stay connected!

- 1) Reach out to our Care and Compassion Committee if you need anything during this time. They are certainly there to help FPC members and friends. Call Bonnie Trevett, Moderator at 518-747-4530.
- 2) Jen is still reachable by phone, although the church house office is closed for now. Call or text her any time at 518-572-4294.
- 3) Try viewing the weekly service on the church's public Facebook Page. You don't necessarily need to have a Facebook account, but it doesn't hurt to have one. (You can also sign up on Facebook but elect to not participate in posting, etc.) Go to: <http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchofHudsonFalls> Then, scroll down until you see the latest sermon video. There you go! A benefit of creating a Facebook account is that you can react and comment on the video, and if you are watching it live, you can see who is watching it with you.
- 4) If you need some help understanding the first thing about the internet, or Facebook, please feel free to call me at 518-572-4294. I'm happy to help.
- 5) What better time for creative work - writing, drawing, sewing... why not share your creations via the Good News? Your church family would love to see what you've been up to. Call Jen, or send mail to the office at 9 River St., Hudson Falls, NY 12839.



Stay safe and be blessed,

Jen



FYI - Member **Colleen Patterson** is a **pharmacist** and may be able to help with getting meds to people who are having difficulty finding or getting meds. Call her at **518-745-7620**.

Trustee Notes

TRUSTEE MINUTES March 3, 2020

The Board of Trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting but it was held in fellowship room because the church house was being used to assist people with tax preparations.

Present were Dale Dickinson, Dave Trevett, Tremayne Morse and Ron Shaffer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was also read and approved.

The following items were discussed and /or actions were taken:

1. A new convection oven for the church kitchen was purchased.
2. A new LED light bulb was installed in the church over the control panel to aid in night location of the area.
3. Metal shelving for the rummage area was obtained from the Route 9 shopping malls clean out.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30

The next meeting will be April 7th.

Dale Dickinson, President
Dave Trevett, Secretary

Scholarship Time!

Do you know someone who will be starting college, or pursuing higher education this year? They may qualify for one of the following:

- ♦ **Larue-King:** Given to assist a deserving Hudson Falls graduate in financing their Freshman year in college.
- ♦ **Presbyterian Scholarship:** Given to active members of our church with a definite need for financial assistance in any form of higher education.
- ♦ **Women's Association Scholarship:** Given to any student who is an active member of our church and may be renewable. May be used for any form of higher education.
- ♦ **David Dempsey Memorial Loan Fund:** A loan for church members only, and must be paid back.

All applications must be picked up and returned to the church office by June 1st. Any questions, contact **Irene Marshall** at **518-681-7586**.



Monthly Scripture Readings

Download a printable lectionary list for April at:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/lectionary

Call the church office at 518-572-4294 if you need assistance.

Remote Giving

FPC Hudson Falls has set up online giving through the Presbyterian Foundation's Online Giving Program. The Foundation uses The Vanco Payment Solutions platform. Vanco is an industry leader in providing churches secure, simple, and specialized payment and giving solutions. Credit card information is handled and stored securely. You can find the app in Google Play or the App Store. It's quick and easy to sign up and pay using a credit card or your bank account.

There is also the conventional method of mailing a check! Mail is being checked at the church office twice per week: 9 River St., Hudson Falls, NY 12839. Or, send payments to Sue Whittington at 92 Boulevard, Hudson Falls, NY 12839. 518-747-5021



Remote Giving - What's a QR Code?

You may have seen symbols in your travels that look very much like crossword puzzles. A **QR code works** in the same way as a barcode at the supermarket. It's a machine-scannable image that can instantly be read using a smartphone camera. Every **QR code** consists of a number of black squares and dots which represent certain pieces of information. In our case, the QR code to the right, when scanned with your smartphone, will take you to our Online Giving donation page. It saves you from having to type in a very long link, especially when you're typing on your tiny phone screen. Try it!



**Scan here! Donate to
FPC Hudson Falls**

Join Us! Fellowship Dinner 2020 at Sweet Basil

Saturday, April 25th at 5:30pm
Sweet Basil Restaurant, 1012 Rt 9,
Queensbury

Early Bird Menu \$17.95 with Salad Bar
Half Plate Menu \$11.95, or
with Salad Bar \$14.95

Off the Menu all prices add beverage, tax,
and gratuity.

Check full menu at
sweetbasilqueensbury.com

Please sign up by April 20th.
Separate checks will be issued.

Any questions, see Sue or Roger Gilbert
518-792-0158.

A sign-up sheet will be available in April.



Adult Fellowship 2020

April 25	Fellowship Dinner at Sweet Basil's
May 14-16	Rummage Sale
June 6	Mini Golf at Hillbilly Golf
July 25	1:30 pm, Pool Party at Otoupal's
August 22	1:30 pm, Lake Party at Gilbert's
September 20	7 pm, Planning Party at Otoupal's
October 3	5:00 pm, Progressive Dinner

Women's Association Upcoming Dates

May 2 - Saturday - Annual Luncheon
at Ambrosia Diner, Aviation Rd.,
Queensbury

Tentative - **April 23** - Program presented
by Jean-Marie Lundgren from
Office of the Aging

Prayer Chain

For prayer requests, please call one of the people on the following list. That person will call the next person, and the last will call the first, so all members of the chain receive the request:

Pat Barron	747-4573
Windy Clark	926-0523
Mary Dickinson	792-0654
Daryl Fowler	747-5876
Connie Fuller	747-5259
Carol Moyer	741-0088
Bonnie Trevett	747-4530

Care & Compassion

Mar. 29 - Apr. 11	Bonnie Trevett
Apr. 12 - Apr. 25	Norma Shaffer
Apr. 26 - May 9	Roberta Clute
May 10 - May 23	Pat Barron
May 24 - June 6	Heather Fowler
June 7 - June 20	Carol LaPoint
June 21 - July 4	Robin Boisvert
July 5 - July 18	Bonnie Trevett

Coffee Hour



Sign up in the kitchen if you'd like to host!
See Trudy Scheidegger or Irene Marshall with questions.

April 5	Tammy Madison & Jackson
April 12	TBD
April 19	TBD
April 26	TBD

Prayer Shawl Ministry & Craft Night

Do you like to knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? How about joining the Prayer Shawl/Craft Night Ministry Group? Through the winter, we meet on the first Thursday of each month. Yarn, hooks, needles and instruction are all available.

Bring a craft to work on while enjoying wonderful fellowship.

Prayer shawls and lap blankets are available. If you know of someone who would benefit from the love, warmth and prayers that are worked into each one, please contact the Church Office or complete a request card (located in the Narthexes).

Questions?

See Diane Lapan, Diane Macintosh, Mary Dickinson or Sue Gilbert.

Newcomers are always welcome!

- **Prayer Shawl /Craft Night**
April 2 @ 7pm, or TBD



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy April Birthday to:

1	Don Marshall	28	Andrew Craner
10	Maureen Vanderwerken	30	Paul Blackmar
10	Eric Georgi	30	Gwyneth Gaulin
14	Trudy Scheidegger	30	Adam Bancroft
15	Nathan Schaffer		
17	Jordon Mandwell		
18	Thomas Barron		
23	Eric Fitzgerald		
27	Renee Trevett Murphy		

Happy April Anniversary to:

Holly & Matt Mabb (April 7)

Diane & Doug MacIntosh (April 15)

Amazon Smile

The church has set up an account with Amazon Smile where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase to our church at no cost to you or the church.

In order for us to receive a donation when you shop at Amazon login into

smile.amazon.com and you will see a spot when you can donate to a charitable organization. Just type in “**First Presbyterian Church of**

Hudson Falls” and our church name will pop up with our address of 9 River St., Hudson Falls, NY 12839. Shop as normal and our church will receive a donation from your purchase.



*Amazon Smile received **\$22.92** this quarter, so our total to date is **\$210.84**. Please keep on shopping!*

Prayers & Concerns

If you'd like to add someone to the list, please place their names in the offering plate during Sunday Worship, or call the church office at 747-3013. Please notify when name is to be removed.

Hospital Admittance Update

Due to HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) the First Presbyterian Church will not be notified if you, or a loved one, are hospitalized. **Please call the Church Office (747-3013) to let us know that you, or a loved one, have been hospitalized.**

When admitted, be sure to list Hudson Falls First Presbyterian Church as your affiliate and **give permission to release the information so that Rev. Plank or a member of the Care and Compassion Committee can visit. Otherwise, your admittance and room number will not be available.**

From Morgan Clark, March 25, via Facebook:

“Eleanor passed away peacefully this morning. She's surely surrounded in heaven by all the loved ones who have gone before her - and no social distancing required! Her family was already planning a 100th birthday gathering in August, so any services will happen then. Thanks for all your love and prayers.”

Those in Our Prayers

Family of Eleanor Randles

Pat Barron

Coronavirus Outbreak

Family of Donna Graham

Keri Rooks

Maximus Bancroft

Elsie VanVranken

Cindy French

Paula Coon

Hayes Doster

Adam Omiecinski

Alisha Ingram

Alonzo Clark

Bentley Smith

Breanna Ruffing

Bruce Barron

Carolyn Spangler

Chuck Bailey

Emily Hilder

Dottie DeMell

Florence Phillips

Helen Rauch

S. Jane Story

Steve Rice

Pat and Don Hassett

Rene Peceu

John Coon

James Harney

Janet Monroe

Janet Pratt

Jim and Becky Smith

Kathy Harrison

Kathy Nolte

Kathy Rezendes

Angelica Nichols

Rev. Bert Pitchford

John Taylor

Margot Vankempen

Marian Lemery

Mary Carpor

Pam Corenetto

Rebecca Rozell

Timothy Oathout

Rita French

Rob Mackle

Robert Smith

Tanya VanVranken

For Longterm Consideration

Edward Thompson

Kathleen McKernon

Jean Wood

Nancy Ellis

Elaine Fitzgerald

Lukas Lemery

Dawn Bishop

Virginia Fitch

Deborah Scarpetti

Hunter Chase

Edna Sheldon

Kendall & Cindy McKernon

(Bold = New this Month)

3/25/20

In Nursing Homes:

Jane Stuebing (Martin)

Judy Bronk

Cindy McKernon



We Remember:

Eleanor Randles

Jim Hirst



First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls

April 2020*

Sundays

10 am, Worship on Facebook Live -
Search '*First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls*'

Mondays

8 pm, AA - Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays

6 pm, TOPS - On Hold
7 pm, AA - Fellowship Hall
April 7, 4 pm, Trustees

Wednesdays

April 8, 7 pm, Session
April 15, 11 am, FPC Book Club - TBD
10 am, Exercise Group -- Fellowship Hall - On Hold
7 am, AA Meditation -- Classroom - TBD
7 pm, Midweek Service, Facebook Live - April 1, April 8, April 15

Thursdays

8 pm, AI Anon -- Classroom - TBD
April 2, 7 pm, Prayer Shawl/Craft Night - TBD
Church House Ministry, 10 am - NOON

Saturdays

10 am, AA -- Lounge

**** Due to Coronavirus,
please check with the
group organizers for
the latest updates.***

