

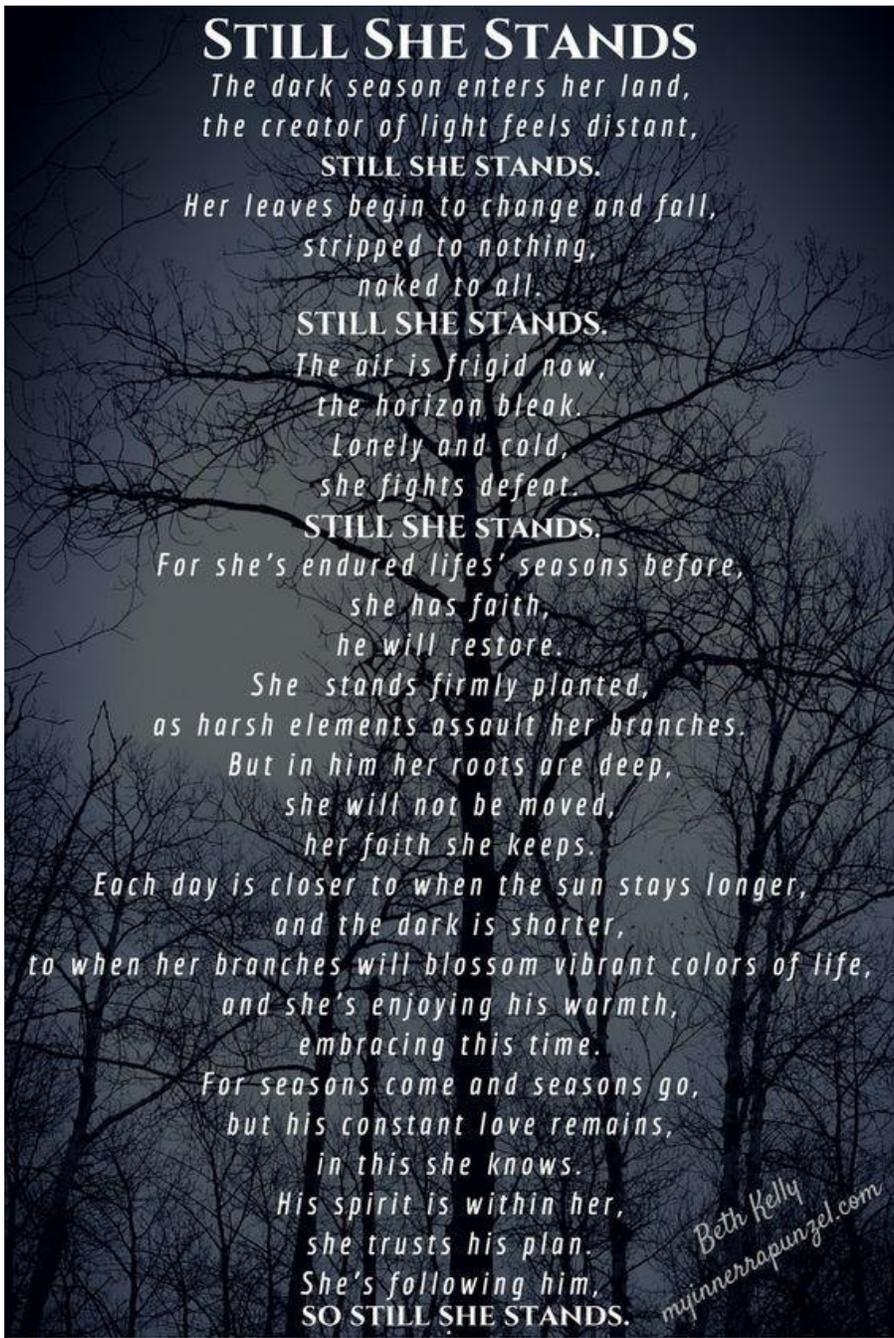
# The Good News

First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls

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

**February 2019**

## Elder Thoughts - Heather Fowler



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**Church Office:**  
9 River St.,  
Hudson Falls, NY 12839  
747-3013

Open Tues-Fri, 10-2

**Church:**  
5 River St.  
747-2203

**Rev. Michael Plank, Pastor**  
Home Phone: 636-3200

**Pat Barron, Clerk of Session**  
Home Phone: 747-4573

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

**Elder of the Month:**  
Heather Fowler  
**Trustee:** Randy Clark

**Care & Compassion:**  
Carol LaPoint, Bonnie Trevett,  
Norma Shaffer

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

# Pastor's Corner



What is school for?

- A) To develop a love of learning in the scholars of tomorrow
- B) To instill obedience and train compliant employees

What do you think? A few years ago, I came across a talk by Seth Godin called "Stop Stealing Dreams" (It's on YouTube, and if you have 17 minutes, it's really worth watching), and in it he asks that question: "What is school for?" That's a conversation that ends up being a lot more nuanced than it seems at first blush. And it reminded me of a similar conversation we've had in session meetings about Children's Sermons; but it occurred to me recently that I have never shared that discussion with you all.

The discussion we had was about what children's sermons are for. And it started when I heard some complaints that people couldn't hear what was going on up front during that time, and then there were some suggestions about maybe using a microphone or me repeating what the kids said. I absolutely understand that feedback. It can be boring at best not to be able to hear what's going on, and frustrating at worst. But I've continued to do the Children's Sermons with no microphone and with not much infrastructure to make sure that the people in the back can hear what's going on up front. And I want to be sure that you understand why.

I've seen Children's Sermon that exist to entertain adults. I've seen Children's Sermons that use kids as a prop to teach lessons to adults. I've seen Children's Sermons where kids are asked to present thoughtful answers that are then laughed at by the adults. I've seen Children's Sermons where kids have been put on the spot and have recoiled in shyness.

I do not do Children's Sermons like that. Because for me, the answer to the question: "What are Children's Sermons for?" has 2 parts: 1) So that children have a time in the worship service that they know belongs just to them; (after all, the whole rest of the service belongs to the adults). 2) So that children learn and understand that they have a pastor too, and that that pastor is me.

***Continued next page...***

## Pastor's Corner - Continued from previous page

So I do not use a microphone. I virtually never repeat for everyone to hear what a child says. I don't use the children to make people laugh. I don't use elaborate sets or props (though these are admittedly very fun). Instead, for a few minutes each week during worship, I try to build a relationship with the children of our church; and to tell them that this church is their home. I try to do that by treating them with dignity and respect and openness and honesty, which I feel like they deserve – even as young as they are. Because that is what I think Children's Sermons are for.

I would welcome further conversation about this if any of you have any questions or comments at all.

Peace,  
Michael

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## From the Stewardship/Budget/Finance Committee

**“For I was hungry and you fed me.”**  
-- *Matthew 25:35*

We often think of ‘Stewardship’ as the time of year we ask for pledges to maintain our budget. But Stewardship is more than that! Think about this: Many people in our community experience real hunger. Have you ever been really hungry, not just “I'm hungry... there's nothing in the cupboard or refrigerator that I want hungry?” But there truly is NOT anything in the refrigerator or cupboard. Both are empty. As Jesus did, we can offer people kinds of nourishment. Donate your favorite nonperishable items to our food pantry

in the church house, especially peanut butter, tuna, canned chicken, pasta, mac and cheese, or donate money specifically to purchase Stewart's Coupons or bus tokens. Also helpful are things like soap, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products, which cannot be purchased with SNAP (formerly called Food Stamps). Thanks to Irving Tissue, we can give facial tissue and toilet tissue. Our little food pantry helps many in our community.

## Thank - You, from Operation Santa

**OPERATION  
Santa Claus**



*Operation Santa Claus would like to thank the congregation for their support this past season. A special thank you to: Michael, for his patience!; Jen, for taking care of inquiries, applications and faxes; the Women's Association, for doing such a great job shopping and their generous donation!; Sue Gilbert, for organizing the shopping and bags; and the congregation for their understanding, patience and encouraging words! With the support of this church we are able to provide for “our kids.” Over 200 families (575 children) were serviced out of the Church House alone! Many smiles were made on Christmas morning because of your support. We wish you all a very Happy and Healthy 2019!!!*

# Session Notes

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls, NY was held on January 13, 2019 at 7:03 PM beginning with **worship and Communion**. The reading was **Isaiah 65:1-9**.

**Visioning:**— Looking at metrics of helping people. We received a detailed report through committee reports and a report from Jen (the office manager). Talked about how we can use marketing tools to help get our name out into the community. Started with the Caroling in the Park on Christmas Eve.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer had to transfer \$1,336.33 from 2016 Surplus leaving us a balance of \$3,262 to use in 2019, which means our potential shortfall is \$5,035.

**Pastor's Report:** Rev. Plank reported the following in written form during the Session meeting:

- Began working with new music director, Jodi Leight
- Christmas Eve went wonderfully, but it seemed like attendance was down
- Caroling on the park after services (Lauren Grogan and Jenna Duffy's idea) was a huge hit, with 64 people attending. All received song sheets with FPCHF branding on them.
- I enjoyed seeing the 5th Sunday service
- Officiated Gary Northrup's funeral at Carleton

I used quite a bit of vacation time during December. I did a poor job allocating vacation days properly this year and was stuck trying to use them all up in Nov/Dec, which I did not quite manage to do.

**Clerk's Report:** 56 communion 1/6/; Clerk: Total membership: 131 members 48 Male, 83 Female.

Attendance: 12/2 82; 12/9 74; 12/16 82 (children's service); 12/28 77; 12/24 128(Christmas Eve); 12/30 47(5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) Average for Dec (including Christmas Eve 82)

2018 Attendance averages: January-April av 60; May-Aug av 64; Sept-Dec av 67  
**Christian Ed** report: Christmas service was amazing, the kids did a great job. After a couple weeks off the kids are starting back with Sunday school and youth group. We have two people who have expressed interest in teaching Sunday school. There will be a meeting after service on the 20th.

**Old Business:** Talk with trustees regarding evaluation of sound system or purchasing a new microphone for the Communion table. Reminder to speak clearly! Do we want to have the sound system reviewed

**New Business:** -Telephone tree for emergency weather closings -**Commissioner for Presbytery meeting Saturday, January 26, 2019** Zac Perry-LaPoint and Michael Barron

**-Dates for 2019 Communion:** First Sunday of each month except September when Communion will be the second Sunday. Also, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday.

Next regular meeting will be **February 14**.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Michael Barron, Clerk pro-tem

# Trustee Notes

## TRUSTEE MINUTES, January 8, 2019

The Board of Trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting in the church house conference room.

Present were Dale Dickinson, Dave Trevett, Ron Shaffer Tremayne Morse, Randy Clark and Bill Scheidegger

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. The village inspected and approved our emergency lights for the church and church house.

2. The rope to ring the bell in the church tower has been repaired

3. The prepared annual trustee report was discussed and will be submitted.

4. Jen's office was rearranged and the copier was moved to a corner location.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00

The next meeting will be February 5, 2019

Dale Dickinson, President

Dave Trevett, Secretary



## From the Office

A big thank-you to trustees Ron Shaffer and Dave Trevett for helping to turn an idea into a reality for the church office last month. They moved the copier to a more convenient place in the office, and now there is an easier pathway around the desk. The move involved some technical leg-work and running a new network wire between the office and the basement. One cabinet was also removed, and some rearranging was done. The office was pleasant before, and now it's even more so. Thanks again, Ron & Dave!

*Jen*

# Monthly Scripture Readings

## February 2019 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

[Year C]

### FEBRUARY

#### **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany—February 3**

Jeremiah 1:4–10

Psalm 71:1–6

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

Luke 4:21–30

#### **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany—February 10**

Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13)

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Luke 5:1–11

#### **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany—February 17**

Jeremiah 17:5–10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

Luke 6:17–26

#### **Seventh Sunday after Epiphany—February 24**

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40

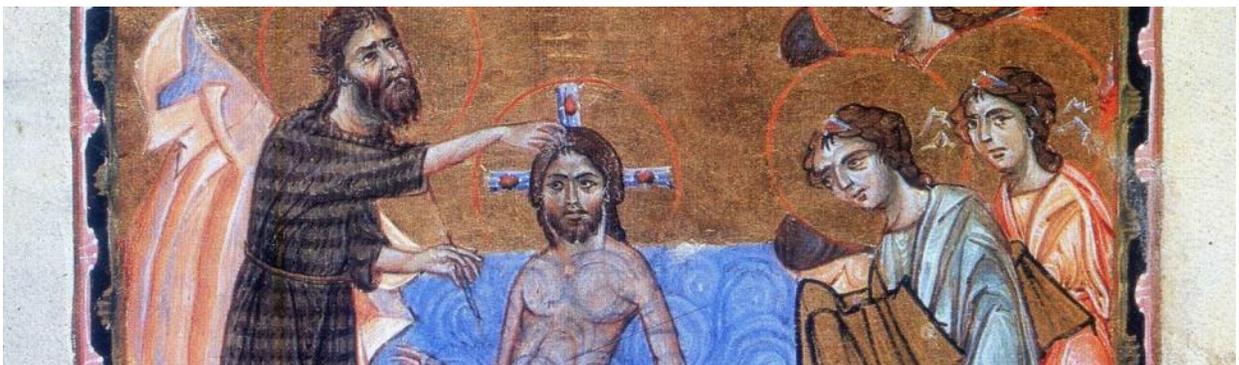
1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50

Luke 6:27–38

Sermons are posted on  
our website!

Read or hear the weekly  
sermon and read our  
monthly newsletter.

***[fpchudsonfalls.org](http://fpchudsonfalls.org)***



# 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	793-1960
Bonnie Trevett	747-4530

# Care & Compassion

Jan. 20 - Feb. 2	Carol LaPoint
Feb. 3 - Feb 16	Bonnie Trevett
Feb. 17 - Mar. 2	Norma Shaffer
Mar. 3 - Mar. 16	Jim Hirst
Mar. 17 - Mar. 30	Roberta
Mar. 31 - April 13	Pat Barron
April 14 - April 27	Heather Fowler
April 28 - May 11	Daryl Fowler
May 12 - May 25	Carol LaPoint
May 26 - June 8	Bonnie Trevett
June 9 - June 22	Norma Shaffer

# Coffee Hour



Feb. 3	Tammy Madison & Jackson Richards
Feb. 10	Volunteers Needed
Feb. 17	Volunteers Needed
Feb. 24	Volunteers Needed

Thanks to all who have volunteered! Please sign up in the Narthex or kitchen if you'd like to volunteer.

# Adult Fellowship

## Upcoming Dates 2019 - Mark Your Calendars!

*(January - February - March ~ No activities planned)*

Saturday, April 27 - **Dinner at Sweet Basil's**

May - TBA - **"Old Friends at Saratoga"** Greenfield Center & Lunch - Families Invited

June - TBA - **Roger's Island Museum**, Ft. Edward & Lunch at Anvil Inn

Saturday, July 20th at 1:30 pm, **Lake Party at the Gilberts'**

Saturday, August 17th at 1:30 pm, **Pool Party at the Otopuals'**

September -TBA- **SUNY ACC Culinary Institute Dinner**

October 19th at 5:00 pm, **Progressive Dinner** - Hosts TBA



*We Remember:*

*William Dixon*

*Gary Northrup*

*Lois Kirk*



## Women's Association

The **Spring 2019 Rummage Sale** will be held **May 16th - 18th**. Donations for spring are now being accepted!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry & Craft Night

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

If you like doing crafts but aren't into knitting or crocheting come to "Any Craft Night" on the third Thursday of each month. 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).

## Worship Committee

### Sanctuary Flowers

Many members have special anniversaries coming up that they enjoy remembering with flowers. If you wish to provide flowers for a particular Sunday please call the church office (747-3013) to complete the following:

- Notify the church office of the date you wish to provide flowers.
- Let the church office know if the flowers are in honor of someone, in memory of someone or to celebrate a special date. This information will be shared in the Sunday bulletin.
- Please take your flowers after the service. If you wish your flowers to go to a shut-in, please notify the Care and Compassion person for that week.



### Questions?

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

***Newcomers are always welcome!***

- **Prayer Shawl**  
Feb. 7 @ 7pm
- **Any Craft**  
Feb. 21 @ 7pm



# Birthdays & Anniversaries



*Happy February Birthday to:*

2	Jason Dickinson	19	Kendra Peceu
4	Jim Nichols	20	Irene Marshall
5	Mitch Gibbs	25	Nicole Truehart
7	Maelin Hastings	26	Elise Van Vranken
10	Jane Story		
11	Jason Whittington		
13	Kathleen McKernon		
16	Madelyn Grace Bancroft		
18	Lilly Fowler		
19	Misty Van Vranken		
19	Kristy Van Vranken Macey		



## Amazon Shopping

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](https://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. We have received over **\$114.93** this year to date.

The church has received over **\$115.00** from Amazon Smile this year to date!

# Prayers & Concerns

Each month we'll list all of the people that we've had in our prayers for the past month. If you'd like to add someone to our weekly 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.**

## Those in Our Prayers

### Family of Lois Kirk

### Family of Jerry Sweet

Family of Gary Northrup  
Emily Hilder  
Timothy Oathout  
Cindy French  
Paula Coon  
Hayes Doster  
Adam Omiecinski  
Alisha Ingram  
Alonzo Clark  
Andrew Blalock  
Bentley Smith  
Breanna Ruffing  
Brian Peceu  
Bruce Barron  
Carolyn Spangler  
Chuck Bailey  
Clute Family  
Dottie DeMell  
Florence Phillips  
Gary & Dolores Dingmon  
Helen Rauch  
S. Jane Story  
Steve Rice

### Angelica Nichols

Pat and Don Hassett  
Jim Hirst  
John Coon  
James Harney  
Janet Monroe  
  
Jim and Becky Smith  
Kathy Harrison  
Kathy Nolte  
Kathy Rezendes  
Keri Rooks  
Lacy O'Quinn  
Linda Honaker  
Margot Vankempen  
Marian Lemery  
Mary Carpor  
Pam Corenetto  
Rebecca Rozell  
Rene Peceu  
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  
Those In The Armed Services  
Hunter Chase  
Volunteer Firefighters  
Carol LaPoint  
Government Leaders  
Emergency Medical Technicians  
  
Jane Stuebing (Martin)  
Edna Sheldon  
Kendall & Cindy McKernon

**(Bold = New this Month)**

1/23/2019

### In Nursing Homes:

Jane Stuebing (Martin)  
Judy Bronk  
Cindy McKernon

# First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls

## February 2019



### Sundays

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10 am, Worship

### Mondays

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8 pm, AA - Fellowship Hall

### Tuesdays

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6 pm, TOPS

7 pm, AA - Fellowship Hall

**Feb 5, Trustees, 7 pm**

### Wednesdays

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7 am, AA Meditation -- Classroom

**10 am, Exercise Group -- Fellowship Hall**

### Thursdays

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Feb 21, 7 pm, Woodmen, Fellowship Hall

8 pm, Al Anon -- Classroom

**Feb 7, Prayer Shawl, 7 pm**

**Feb 14, Session, 7 pm**

**Feb 21, Craft Night, 7 pm**

### Saturdays

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10 am, AA -- Lounge

