

The Tidings

April 2018



Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Pastor's Column

Dear church family,

Can you believe it? The snow is finally melting and Easter is less than a week away! As we all look forward to that joyful celebration there are three things I invite you to do with a grateful heart. First, please invite your friends and family members to join you at our 10 AM worship service, or better yet ask them to "be our guests" at breakfast at 8:30. Many people you know may actually be looking for a church to attend on Easter so don't be shy about inviting them! Even if they can't come they'll likely appreciate that you thought of them.

Next, please come to church on Easter ready to be welcoming and helpful. If you see anything that needs doing, like picking up after our breakfast, or helping greet newcomers, just step forward with a smile, and serve however you can! We anticipate having a good-sized crowd, so your help and hospitality would be much appreciated.

Finally, I want you to know that there will be a special Easter season offering. As most of you know our church is transitioning this year from having a pastor 1/2 time to 3/4 time. Our annual budget is not yet fully funded, so we are relying on your continued generosity. Your gift of any size is needed. Know that your offering will make a difference, it will empower our ministries and keep our momentum strong. I am confident we can join together and strengthen this church of Jesus Christ. Our Easter season offering will be called "I Care, I Give" and it will be received beginning on Easter and continuing through the month of April.

It is a tremendous joy for me to serve as your pastor. I gladly pour myself out in service to you, the church and the wider community. I believe that this is a vital faith community and that we can and will be found faithful. Here's to the new life that has been promised to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. New life for you and for me, and for the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church.

Pastor Kelly

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance of what we do not (yet) see!"

Hebrews 11:1

Pastor

Rev. Kelly Warner

Church Council

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**PLEASE notify us
of any address
changes and/or if
you no longer wish
to receive this
publication.**



Learning About the Easter Egg

Spring greetings to all,

As we prepare for Easter there is something we see in stores and around our homes. It is a symbol of spring and new life, not just for Christians but for many people and cultures throughout the centuries. It is the tradition of coloring and hiding eggs! This month I want to share with you the interesting history of Easter eggs. Long before Christ walked the earth, the season of spring and colored eggs was celebrated by ancient civilizations, including the Persians, Hindus and Egyptians. They realized that the egg was the beginning of life for many creatures; when they hatched the world was given new hope! This important symbol in pagan cultures found its way into the Christian celebration of the resurrection. Both children and adults viewed the egg with great awe and mystery. When people accepted Christ as their Savior, when they heard the story of his living after having died on the cross, when they understood that he had given them eternal life, the egg seemed a very fitting symbol.

Eggs have long been an important food source for people. When groups of adults would go out for egg hunts, it became a tradition to bring home brightly colored eggs to children as presents. Over time, some adopted a special day in the spring when children could participate in a group hunt, looking for eggs. The child who found the most beautiful and colorful egg would receive a prize!

In some parts of Europe, eggs with deep color hues simply did not exist. So, as the custom of children's egg hunts spread, adults would color eggs with dye and hide them the night before the hunt. In many places the game became a teaching tool for Christians. Orthodox Christians would pierce the egg with a needle, completely drain it, and then use bright red paint on the shell. When a child found this fragile egg they would be asked "Do you know why this egg is red?" Then a parent, a church leader, or an older child would explain that the red paint represented the blood of Christ shed for each person.

Over time painting one egg red gave way to using the shell as a canvas. In many places in Eastern Europe, especially in the Dark and Middle Ages, eggs were decorated with the image of Christ, his disciples, Mary, Joseph, and other New Testament figures. When all the eggs were gathered, they were laid out in a special order to teach the complete story of the life of Jesus.

In the Scandinavian nations, and some parts of the British Isles, early Christians did not hide eggs. Instead children would go from house to house begging for brightly colored eggs. To receive an egg, the groups of children have to act out a portion of the Easter story. Called "Pace egging," from the Hebrew word Pesach (Passover), the custom lasted for several hundred years. Over time the eggs became known as "Peace Eggs," representing the peace that Christ could bring to each person's life.

Because eggs were inexpensive in most regions, the practice of decorating Easter eggs crossed all social classes and remained somewhat simple. When there were egg hunts many children used a hat or old sack when they gathered eggs. This often meant that a number of eggs arrived home broken. To save the eggs, families begin to use a basket. Originally the basket was meant for taking food to church on Easter morning to be blessed by the priest. This custom of having food blessed in God's house actually dates back to the Old Testament. Once the basket was home and the food has been removed, families begin to allow their children to use it during their egg hunts. Soon craftsmen begin to create baskets resembling a bird's nest. These special Easter baskets were kept and passed down from generation to generation.

The tradition of coloring and collecting Easter eggs fell upon hard times not long after Martin Luther broke off from the Catholic Church. He and others felt that anything having pagan roots should be removed from the Christian church. Groups like the Puritans (and others) banned both Christmas and Easter. For several hundred years generations of children grew up knowing nothing about this ancient tradition!

In the middle of the 19th century, Easter made a comeback as Protestant churches in England and the United States began again to recognize the day. The tradition of colored eggs also returned during this time period. During the Civil War President Lincoln oversaw an egg-rolling contest on the Capitol grounds. This Monday-after-Easter custom is still celebrated today.

I hope you have enjoyed learning about how eggs, a once mystical pagan icon, have been transformed into a beautiful symbol of our Christian faith. Now when you see Easter eggs in a basket, or used for other decorations, you will be able to better appreciate their long and rich tradition!

Anticipating Easter - a time of NEW LIFE,

Pastor Kelly

(What I have shared in this month's column is Adapted from "Stories behind the traditions and songs of Easter" by Ace Collins. There are numerous other fascinating articles in the small book, if any of you would like to borrow it just let me know. I consider my many books to be the congregations lending library. We also have our own church library in the parlor, plenty of wonderful books are found on those shelves as well.)

Mission and Outreach news

Regional Food Bank Meets Earth Day

Sunday, April 12, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Celebrate Earth Day by helping to get good food to the hands of those who have food insecurity, and help keep good food out of landfills. Bring a bag lunch to church on Sunday, April 12. We will eat together in the Fellowship Room before we carpool to Latham to sort items for our 2-hour shift. A stop at Guptill's Ice Cream on the way home will top off the day (yes, they will be open as of March 17!). Come be part of the fun! Contact Linda Sheeran at 518-885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com with questions, or if you plan to attend.

Congratulations, Ballston Spa UMC!

The United Methodist Church celebrates six special Mission Sundays: Human Relations Day, Annual United Methodist Committee on Relief Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day. In 2017, 63 churches in the Upper New York Conference contributed to **all** six offerings... and we are one of them!

Thank you for giving on Special Sundays, you enable vital ministries that change the world, one life at a time.

Fair Trade

The next Fair Trade sale will be Sunday, April 15th after service in the North Entryway. We will again have coffee, tea, dark hot chocolate, and organic dark chocolate candy bars including Extreme Dark, Panama Extra Dark, Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt, and one with Toasted Almond Bits.

Thanks to all members and friends who support this ministry which enables small farmers from third world countries to make a living.

5K Dinners in April

Our traditional 5K Thank You Dinner will be Thursday, April 19th at 6:00 PM at the Druthers Brewery and Restaurant in Saratoga. Each person will order off the menu that night. To sign-up, please see **Melody Babcock** after church or call her **(518)490-2015** by Monday, April 16th if you would like to attend.

Everyone is invited to join us for these dinners which are an opportunity to socialize with other church members and friends, as well as to thank our Falling Leaves 5K sponsors for their support.

PRAYER SHAWL STORIES



The Prayer Shawl on the rail in March was made and given in memory of Sr. Marion Rankin of Dublin, Ireland. Her family and faith community appreciated the prayers given over time as Sister Marion battled cancer. Now, this shawl made in her honor will go on to bless someone with love, prayers, and compassion. Sister Marion was a friend of Breta and Ilah Sisson, Karen Parlapiano and Kim McCumber. We were honored guests of the Mercy Sisters at the Convent at Monasterevin when we visited Sr. Marion in 1993.

Our circle of prayers reaches far beyond our church to places around the world.

Bless the inspiration.

Bless the maker.

Bless the shawl.

Bless the recipient, their family and friends.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Linda Sheeran shares this news with her church family.

My husband's aunt was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was having a tough time with the treatments. Visiting her in the hospital, I brought her some Italian cookies from Bella Napoli (she is Italian), and a prayer shawl. Being Catholic, I was not really sure how she would feel about it. But, God's love works regardless of a person's particular religion. Her eyes lit up as she embraced that shawl. She loved the color (mixed soft pinks), and how soft it was. Her body just relaxed when she held it, and she was very thankful. That was the beginning of February. I am sorry to say that Aunt Jean passed away today, but I know that shawl helped ease some of her pain.

Have you given a Prayer Shawl to someone? Please feel free to share your story in our Newsletter.

Youth Happenings

Youth Group News

It was a busy and fun two hours at our March youth group gathering. First came mac & cheese for lunch (thanks Mr. Taylor) and then a fun icebreaker. Everyone then settled down and got into two groups; the younger kids made over 50 colorful, homemade Easter cards and the older kids stuffed a lot of treats into Easter eggs for our egg hunt on April 1st. When they were done they helped "finish off some of the extra candy". The most lively part of our time together was brainstorming future activities. The kids filled the whole whiteboard with possibilities. They also learn that when you invite someone to Youth Group BOTH of you get a surprise from the Dr. Seuss hat!

Be sure and ask the kids about youth group when you see them in church! Meanwhile, here are dates and times of future events:

April 22 – Regional Food Bank and ice cream treat, 1:00–3:00 PM.

May 6 - Pizza and Flower "Power", 12 – 2:00 PM.

June 3 -Grillin' and Chillin' Wear comfortable outdoor clothes, 12 – 2:00 PM.

REMEMBER if any youth brings a friend - both of them get to choose surprises from our Dr. Seuss hat!

Maybe some of you know the Johnny Appleseed grace that Cherrie Sanders helped the youth group sing!

*Oh, the Lord is good to me
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need,
The sun and the rain and the apple seed
Oh, the Lord is good to me!*



LIBRARY CORNER

**The Parables of Dr. Seuss
By Robert L. Short**

When we see the title of this book we immediately think of our favorite children's storyteller. But this is not a children's book. The author is making an effort to explain the "Word of God" in a way that is easier for folks to grasp and understand. In many cases we can suit Dr. Seuss' story to the God story and the God story to the Dr. Seuss story. You will discover that the stories are truly life parables.

Children's Book Donations

Holly Flynn works with a literacy organization called The RED Bookshelf (Read Every Day). They accept donations of gently used children's books that are then cleaned and repaired by volunteers. Children get to choose free books for their homes which hopefully fosters a love of reading. If you have any gently used books that you would like to donate, please contact Holly Flynn at hbarker@albany.edu or 518-441-2371.



2018 Camp Registration open for youth and family!

Click <http://campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2018> to browse all of our 2018 summer programs and to register. Don't forget to take advantage of our Early Bird (\$10 before May 1), Sibling (\$20 per camper), and Refer-A-Friend (\$40 for the referring friend) discounts! Our church can also help sponsor your child. The camp has big things planned this summer and we want YOU to be part of it! Register today! If there are any questions, please contact us at (toll free) 855-414-6400 or info@campsandretreats.org

Worship Night in America with Chris Tomlin, and Matt Maher

Join us on Thursday, April 12, at 7 PM at Times Union Center in Albany, NY for an amazing concert. (Ticket Prices range from \$11 to \$25). Contact Linda Sheeran at 518-885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com if you want to attend (and hopefully carpool).

CHICKEN BARBECUE DINNER

The Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church on 175 5th Avenue will be hosting a Chicken Barbecue with baked potatoes, coleslaw and ice cream on **Saturday, April 28th** from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Cost: Free will donation. Come join us!



- 4-1 Karen Fogg
- 4-3 Tara Conley; Ruth Ann Caswell;
Daniel Sansone
- 4-5 Jacob Hott
- 4-6 Joshua Parlapiano
- 4-9 George Mallette
- 4-10 Christopher Sutton
- 4-12 Wayne Harrison
- 4-14 Paul MacMillin; Jennifer Sutherland
- 4-16 David Staulters; Shelli Wolsey
- 4-17 Eric Thompson
- 4-18 Anna Taylor
- 4-19 Mia Lawrence
- 4-21 Jennifer Taylor
- 4-25 Carey Shoen; Benjamin Skillings
- 4-29 Madison LeRoy
- 4-30 Derek Costanzo



- 4-5 Christine & Eric Thompson
- 4-7 Jeff & Judy Wainwright
- 4-11 Sheri & Jerry Litchfield
- 4-14 Richard & Melody Babcock
- 4-16 Dick & Peggy Traver
- 4-20 Dan & Jilly Sansone
- 4-29 Jeffrey & Lynne Blake
- 4-30 Kristen & Lance Evans

Honor the Veterans

On Sunday, May 6 we will honor our Veterans during our 10AM worship service. We have invited Cheryl Hage-Perez, Leigha Rosenberg, and the staff of the Veterans and Community Housing Coalition (VCHC) to come to church that day. We are also inviting residents in the Vet House (males) and Guardian House (females). Cheryl and Leigha will provide an overview of the services provided by VCHC to Saratoga County Veterans (this is the group we have raised over \$15,000 for through our 5K Falling Leaves Run the past two years).

After worship we are invited to attend a Red, White and Blue Potluck Dinner in the fellowship room. So put your thinking caps on to come up with some red, white and blue dishes for the potluck dinner.

9th Session of the Upper NY Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Our theme this year is: "Together in Prayer: Boldly Living Our Call". This will be **May 31 – June 2** at Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, NY.

All clergy and lay members will be discussing and voting on Petitions and Resolutions, reviewing reports, worshipping, networking, and praying together. With more than 168,000 members, the Upper NY Annual (Regional) Conference comprises 867 local churches, 65 new faith communities in 12 districts, and cover 48,000 square miles in 49 of the 62 counties in New York state. Our mission is to "live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places." Pastor Kelly will attend with our church's Lay delegate Linda Sheeran.

Milton, New York: A New Town in a New Nation

We are delighted to announce that one of our church members, Karen Staulters has helped author recently publish book. It is called "Milton, New York, A New Town in a New Nation".

It follows the growth of the shire town of Saratoga County from its first settlement on the eve of the Revolutionary War to the conclusion of another, more deadly conflict, the War for the Union. It is a story of pioneers, farmers, entrepreneurs, politicians, people of color, industrialists, mill workers, teachers, soldiers, and their families as they followed their own path to becoming Americans. The book is now available on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Starting March 2 - Books available at Brookside Museum;

April 3, 7:00 PM - Milton Town Hall, Historical Presentation on the Early History of the Town of Milton presented by the authors;

April 26, 7:00 PM - Book Launch Event at Brookside Museum. Signed books will be available for sale for \$18. Profits from all direct sales will be donated to Brookside.

Authors: Kim McCartney, Town Historian, Jim Richmond and Karen Staulters. There are 278 pages with 120 images in the book.

Any orders placed through Karen Staulters will save on shipping. Contact her at jkstaul@aol.com or 518-587-1295.

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church +Hoffman Car wash

Now through April 30, 2018 buy car wash tickets and our church receives 50% of the sale! WIN-WIN!!! Clean Car and money for the ministries at BSUMC. These car wash tickets never expire!! Purchase for teachers, babysitters, newspaper deliverers, gifts, etc. Purchase on-line and print out your car wash coupons immediately at:

<http://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraisers/BSUMCcarwash>

Exterior only: \$10

Your vehicle enters a modern car wash bay where it receives a soft-cloth wash followed by touch-free air drying.

Full Service car wash: \$27

Your vehicle first receives an Exterior Car wash. Car care attendants then vacuum the carpets, seats and ashtrays and wipe the interior windows, dashboard and doorjambes. Finally, they add an air freshener of your choice and the exterior of your vehicle is hand dried. Full Service tickets may be used at: 1672 Route 9, Clifton Park, 1757 Central Avenue, Colonie, and 753 new Loudon Road, Latham.

Any questions?? Call or e-mail Lynne Blake at (518)885-9821 or LBlake@nycap.rr.com

To pay with cash or with a check, please use the form below:

BSUMC +Hoffman Car wash

Name:

Address:

Phone #

E-mail:

___ full service @\$27 each Total: \$ _____

___ exterior only @\$10 each Total: \$ _____

Check amount: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Ballston Spa United Methodist Church or BSUMC. Please place in the offering plate or mail to the church at: 101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Car wash tickets will be distributed on May 6th.



Thank you letter

Dear United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the Ballston Area Clergy Association (BACA), I would like to thank you for your recent generous donation of \$1,020.00 to our community Assistance Fund. This fund was established in 2009 as an ecumenical witness of God's love and compassion to people in times financial crisis. Thank you for your part in making this a vital ministry to our community!

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
Susann Getsch, PhD
Treasure, Ballston Area Clergy Association
Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Ballston Spa*



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  EASTER Worship 10:00 AM Breakfast, 8:30AM Egg Hunt, 9:30AM	2	3 Thrift Shop, 9:30 – noon Finance Mtg., 7:00 PM (P)	4 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon Trustees Mtg., 6:30 PM (CH)	5	6 Parents' Night Out, 6:00-8:00 PM (SS)	7
8 Worship 10:00 AM Holy Communion; Sunday School Mtg., 9:15 (SS)	9 Boy Scouts, 7:00 PM (FR)	10 Thrift Shop, 9:30 – noon Council Mtg., 7:00 PM (CH) Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM (FR)	11 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon Worship Team, 6:30 PM (P)	12 Cub Scouts, 7:00 PM (FR)	13	14 Boy Scouts Adult Leader Training, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (FR)
15 Family Worship 10:00 AM; Native Americans Ministries Sunday; Fair Trade; Eagle Court of Honor, 2:00-5:00 PM (S)	16 Boy Scouts, 7:00 PM (FR)	17 Thrift Shop, 9:30 – noon Cub Scouts, 7:00PM (FR)	18 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon Prayer Shawl, 6:30 PM (P)	19 5K Dinner Druthers Brewery and Restaurant, 6:00 PM; Cub Scouts, 7:00 PM (FR)	20	21
22 Worship 10:00 AM; Regional Food Bank Trip 1:00-3:00 PM	23 Boy Scouts, 7:00 PM (FR)	24 Thrift Shop, 9:30 – noon Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM (FR)	25 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon	26 SPRC Mtg., 6:00 PM (P); Cub Scouts, 7:00 PM (FR)	27	28
29 Worship 10:00 AM; Prayer Shawl Blessing	30 Boy Scouts, 7:00 PM (FR)	CC=Connection Café CH=Church House FR=Fellowship Room P =Parlor S =Sanctuary SS=Sunday School Area				



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the February issue of *The Tidings* newsletter is **May 20th**. You may e-mail your article to bsumc@albany.twcbc.com, drop it off, or mail it to the office. Anyone may submit an article for the newsletter.



**Sunday Worship 10 AM - Nursery Care Available
Sunday School 10:15 AM**

Ballston Spa United Methodist
Church

101 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Address Service Requested

April Tidings

Church Office Phone

518-885-6886

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday

9:00 a.m. – noon

Pastor Kelly Warner

Tuesday – Thursday (all day)

Email

bsumc@albany.twcbc.com

Web Site

Ballstonspaumchurch.org

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”