

# The Tidings

February 2018



**Ballston Spa United Methodist Church**

**101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020**

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## Pastor's Column

Dear Church Family,

Warmest greetings! I have very carefully made my way across icy walkways this morning. I join with so many of you in wanting this winter to be done with so warmer weather can greet us as we go out our front door. I am also looking forward to Lent, one of the most meaningful seasons of our Christian year. It hasn't been that long since we celebrated Advent and Christmas, but with so many church and family activities, I found it difficult (once again) to savor all that was happening. But Lent is different; over the years it has often been a time of satisfying spiritual growth in my life. I have been in Bible studies that challenged and changed me, and I have committed to new disciplines – like fasting, or going on prayer walks with a friend. I have read new Christian books and gone on spiritual retreats. I've read through the four gospels with others in a small group, then watched Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" during Holy Week. For those who may not be familiar with this season in our "Christian calendar", Lent is the 40-day period (not counting Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter. These forty days remind us that Jesus spent that same amount of time in the solitude of the desert being tempted before he began his public ministry. We who are Jesus' disciples today are invited to use the forty days of Lent to examine our lives, repent of our sins and draw closer to God through spiritual disciplines. The three traditional disciplines used by faith communities around the world are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer can cultivate a deeper relationship with God; abstaining from food can prompt us to acknowledge our dependence on God for all things; and almsgiving challenges us to give to others, knowing God has given so much to us.

What I want to offer all of us this Lent is an opportunity to go on this spiritual journey together. I am including in this newsletter a wide assortment of modern-day Lenten disciplines. I am hoping that lots of us will do at least one of these, and then when Easter comes around this year – there will be tremendous joy as we celebrate NEW LIFE through Christ.

Eager to grow with you in Christ,

**Pastor**

*Rev. Kelly Warner*

**Church Council  
Chair**

*Ilah Sisson Walser*

**Christian  
Education**

*Angela Kinne*

**Trustee Co-Chairs**

*Garry Perkins*

*George Mallette*

**SPRC Chair**

*Jackie Capone*

**Treasurer**

*Lynne Blake*

**Financial Secretary**

*Cherrie Sanders*

**Lay Member**

**UNYAC**

*Linda Sheeran*

**Lay Leader**

*Debbie Thompson*

**Winter Music**

**Leaders**

*Terri Knowlton*

*Ethel Lesh*

**Office Assistant**

*Katrina Tatura*

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

# Preparation for Easter

All year long we are aware of the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection – but Lent is a time when Christians are invited to choose and then commit to personal spiritual disciplines. If this thought excites you, as it does me – please read through some of the possible commitments you might make during Lent. Choose one, or more than one, and get ready to go on a journey that will make you stronger as a Christian.

## Inward and Personal Disciplines

- Spend time in solitude each day (for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes).
- Read a Christian book for inner growth.
- Read through the four Gospels.
- Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reflections.
- Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in my prayers.
- Give myself a gift of 3 hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.
- Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.
- Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
- Take control of my life by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.

## Outward and Social Disciplines

- Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.
- Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.
- Listen and respond to Christ's call to become involved in a new way in the church.
- Go to coffee or dinner with a Christian I want to know better.
- Give blood and remember Jesus' blood shed for me on the cross.
- Say "NO" to something that has been tempting me, but is a waste of money/time.
- Decide to become a member of the church – so I can publicly declare my trust in Jesus Christ and my allegiance to his church.

## As a way of being accountable, I will either:

- Share my intentions for Lent with my pastor, or
- Share my plan with at least one other person.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_

This checklist is adapted from Lenten Pledge 2010 (Sacred Tapestry UM)





## Birthdays

- 2-1 Maddy Wilson
- 2-2 Patricia Higgins
- 2-3 Parker Caswell; Joshua Thompson;  
Jason Greco
- 2-4 A.J. Schmidt; Garret Evans
- 2-6 Peggy Traver
- 2-7 Kathy Haege; T.C. Wolsey
- 2-14 Jeannine Kelley
- 2-16 Eliason Cherrstrom; Taylor Natale
- 2-19 Keith Dickerson
- 2-22 Alexander Duthaler
- 2-23 Nicholas Parlapiano
- 2-25 David Lotto
- 2-26 Melanie Lotto
- 2-29 Jonathan Blake



## Anniversaries

- 2-15 Frank & Mary Townley
- 2-17 Jason & Michelle Greco

## **Fair Trade**

The next Fair Trade sale will be Sunday, February 11th after service in the North Entryway, just in time for Valentine's Day. 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. Last month \$150 was raised through your generosity.



## **New Beginnings Conversation**

What a tremendous gift it has been to gather in small groups during January. It has been helpful for me as your new pastor to spend time learning more about you and your life - and your involvement in the church. The other blessing in our gatherings has been the meaningful connections made among participants. Someone recently shared that it was wonderful to get to know people who for years had sat next to them in the pew. Building community, growing closer to one another and God, is something I will intentionally cultivate in our church. These new beginnings conversations are just that, a fresh opportunity to begin developing deeper relationships among us in the body of Christ. I thank everyone who has taken the time to participate in a small group. I am looking forward to future conversations with more of you in the near future! I am grateful to God for all of you.

One small group gathering still open is on February 18, 12-1:00 pm in the parlor. We'll schedule more if needed.

## **5K Dinners in February**

The next 5K Thank You Dinner will be Thursday, February 15th at 6:00 PM at the Pizza Works. The cost will be \$11.00 for pizza, salad, soda, tax and tip. Sign-up sheets with pizza selections will be available the end of January. To sign-up, please see **Melody Babcock (518)490-2015** or **Stan Lockwood (518)885-1552** after church or call them.

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.

## **Winter Family Fun Night**

**Pre- K – 7<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 6-8 pm**

Enjoy a fun evening with your family playing games and creating crafts & memories while enjoying a delightful snack! Location: upstairs Sunday School area.

Contact Angela Kinne, Sunday School Superintendent at: [anglasa24@aol.com](mailto:anglasa24@aol.com) for more information.



## Sunday School Mission

Our Sunday School is doing a local mission. We are collecting the following items for cats and dogs at the Saratoga Animal Shelter: blankets, dry and wet food, animal beds, treats, wash cloths and towels. If anyone would like to join us supporting this project, we'd welcome your help. You will find a collection area in the back of the sanctuary. In March, on Family Sunday, all the gifts will be presented by our youth. More details to follow; stay tuned!

## Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Our church is responsible for providing the lunch on March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

February 28<sup>th</sup> – Christ Episcopal Church  
Pastor Gary Newton

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Community Alliance Church  
Pastor David Valdo

March 14<sup>th</sup> – BSUMC – meal;  
message by Pastor Kelly

March 21<sup>st</sup> – First Presbyterian Church  
Pastor Scott DeBlock

March 28<sup>th</sup> – First Baptist Church  
Father Derik Roy

If you have any questions contact Helen Senecal at (518)885-6883 or Diane Solotruck at (518)885-5280.

## Ballston Spa Chocolate Festival

The fifth annual Ballston Spa Chocolate Fest will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6 to 9 pm in downtown Ballston Spa.

Local restaurants, bakeries, and chocolate chefs from across Saratoga County will compete by preparing small, sample sized chocolate offerings. Visitors will be able to sample the chocolate offerings.

Our church will provide 5 Valentine's Day crafts and sell Fair Trade chocolates. Do come out for this busy night and invite others to join you!

## Church Council News

Everyone's invited to our Church Council on February 13<sup>th</sup>. General church business will be discussed from 7 to 7:30 pm, then Pastor Kelly will lead us all in a discussion on "Core Values". Some examples of Core Values:

- ✚ Deeply held, shared beliefs or attitudes
- ✚ Almost never named but very powerful
- ✚ Reveal what is most important in a church

When a church knows and can name their core values here are some benefits:

- Morale is higher
- We keep our focus on the "Big Picture"
- Decisions are made more quickly
- Faster resolution of disagreements
- Relationships are healthier
- Newer members can enter in to the church's ministries more easily
- It helps define who we are to the larger community outside our doors

However, when core values are not known or defined, here are some of the potential pitfalls:

- Lower morale
- Preoccupation with trivial matters
- Decision-making tends to be slower; touchy items are "tabled" not resolved
- Frequent friction over matters because of one or a few persons' preferences
- Relationships, especially among leaders, become frayed over time
- Maintaining "Traditions" often keeps a church from making needed changes
- Newer people find it difficult to enter in



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

## Our Sympathy

Our condolence to the family of Dorothy Louise Bowers, 91, who passed away on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

# ~ February 2018 ~

March ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Cub Scouts 7 pm (FR)	2	3
4 Choir practice, 9:20 am (S) <b>Worship 10 am</b> Holy Communion	5 Boy Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	6 Thrift Shop 9:30 – noon <b>Finance Mtg., 7 pm (P)</b> Cub Scouts, 7 pm, (FR)	7 Food Pantry, 9:30 - noon <b>Trustees Mtg., 7 pm (CH)</b>	8 Cub Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	9	10
11 Choir practice, 9:20 am (S) <b>Worship 10 am</b> Scout Sunday Fair Trade “New Beginnings” 12-1pm (P)	12 Boy Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	13 Thrift Shop 9:30 – noon <b>Council Mtg., 6:30, pm (P)</b> Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm, (FR)	14 Food Pantry, 9:30 - noon <b>Ash Wednesday Worship, 7pm (S)</b>	15 5K Dinner at Pizza Works Restaurant, 6 pm Cub Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	16	17
18 Choir practice, 9:20 am (S) <b>Family Worship 10 am</b> Sunday School Mtg., 9:00 am; “New Beginnings” 12-1pm (P)	19 Boy Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	20 Thrift Shop 9:30 – noon Cub Scouts, 7 pm, (FR)	21 Food Pantry, 9:30 – noon <b>Prayer Shawl 7 pm (P)</b> <b>Winter Family Fun Night, 6:00-8:00 pm</b> (upstairs Sunday School area)	22 <b>SPRC Mtg., 6 pm (P)</b> Cub Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	23	24
25 Choir practice, 9:20 am (S) <b>Worship 10 am</b>	26 Boy Scouts, 7 pm (FR)	27 Thrift Shop 9:30 – noon Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm (FR)	28 Food Pantry, 9:30 - noon <b>Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon</b> at Christ Episcopal church, 12–1:00 pm <b>Worship Team, 6:30 pm (P)</b>	<b>Notes:</b>		

# february

## Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the February issue of *The Tidings* newsletter is **March 15th**. You may e-mail your article to [bsumc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto: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

*February Tidings*

### Church Office Phone

518-885-6886

### Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. – noon

### Pastor Kelly Warner

Tuesday – Thursday (all day)

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### Email

[bsumc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:bsumc@albany.twcbc.com)

### Web Site

[Ballstonspaumchurch.org](http://Ballstonspaumchurch.org)

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*"Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors"*



