

Pastor*Rev. Kelly Warner***Office Manager***Susan Cramer***Custodian***Tom Chase***Music Ministry***Cathy King***Winter Music***Terri Knowlton**Mark Warner***Christian Education***Karen Groff***Church Council Chair***Ilah Sisson Walser***Financial Secretary***Cherrie Sanders***Lay Leader***Linda Sheeran***SPRC Chair***Jackie Capone***Treasurer***Lynne Blake***Trustee Co-Chairs***Gary Perkins**Helen Senecal***Youth Group****Leaders***Melissa Taylor**Cherrie Sanders*

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any address
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publication.**

The Tidings

March 2019

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church



101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Pastor's Column

Greetings, Church Family,

As the month of March begins the church starts to prepare for the holy season we call Lent. This is a 7-week period when we examine our lives, repent of our sins, and seek to renew and strengthen our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. Here are some coming events that I hope you will participate in:

Ash Wednesday service is on March 6th from 6:30 to 7 pm in the sanctuary. Listen to Scripture and music; those who wish may receive ashes as a sign of repentance.

A Lenten (small-group) class will be held in the Connection Cafe for 6 Sundays, from 8:45 to 9:35. We'll listen to a 5 to 7-minute opening video and then share in group discussion. Come grow your faith and get to know others better in your church family. Sign up on the clipboard at coffee hour; we will meet March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 14. There is no cost for this class, but please do remember to bring along your Bible.

An additional Lenten class could be offered during the evening, or even Daytime. Call the church office and leave your name and contact information if Interested. If we get enough people, we will certainly enjoy having more small groups meet!

Lenten Lunches will once more be hosted at the Episcopal Church in the Village. Local churches prepare the meals and area clergy offer Lenten Messages. Attendance is usually over 50 people, but there is always room for More. Come and discover why this is such a meaningful experience each Wednesday between noon and 1 pm. Be sure to come on Wednesday, April 3rd, when I get to share about the Transformation: How Jesus Makes a Difference!

Put April 18th at 7 pm on your calendar as well. There will be a Maundy Thursday service in Connections Café. Lots of people attended this meaningful service last year.

One last extra-special surprise is that there will be a Seder Meal on Friday, April 19th, in our downstairs fellowship hall. Next month I will tell you some of what will make this a powerful and unforgettable experience.

How good it is to be part of this amazing family of faith at the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church!

Pastor Kelly

Mission and Outreach News



Fair Trade

There will be a sale of Fair Trade products on Sunday, March 17th. We will have coffee (including hazelnut), tea, hot chocolate, and DARK Chocolate bars. We will again be set up near the coat racks just outside of the Connections Cafe.



Special Sundays Church 100% Participation includes BSUMC!

The United Methodist Church celebrates six Special Sunday offerings throughout the year.

- Human Relations Day- was January 20
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Day- March 31
- Native American Ministries Sunday- May 5
- Peace with Justice- June 16
- World Communion Sunday- October 6
- United Methodist Student Day- November 24

In 2018, 58 churches in the Upper New York Conference contributed to **all** six offerings, and Ballston Spa UMC was one of them! Once again, your generosity is evident. Well done, BSUMC!! And thank you, on behalf of the Upper New York Annual Conference!

February First Friday

Wow, what a great night we had at Chocolate Fest! Hundreds of people stopped by to try our chocolate fountain or to taste the awe-some fudge our chocolate chef



Abba Acres provided for the chocolate creations contest. Lots of fun was had by all!

Church Happenings



Keeping our connection as a church family

Our custodian, Tom Chase, will soon be going in for a heart procedure. He asks for your prayers and thanks everyone for their support. Our Staff Parish team will make sure that Tom is mended before returning to his daily work here at the church. He does an excellent job as our custodian!

Aiden O'Connor, the sweet 7-month-old son of Katie and Kyle, and grandson of Linda and John Sheeran was baptized on February 17th. He was given a crocheted blanket from our church family. His family hosted coffee hour; blue helium balloons floated cheerfully in our Connections Cafe as everyone enjoyed a scrumptious cake and other goodies.

Pat Brewster remains at home this winter after surgery on her hip. She continues to do the recommended physical therapy and stays busy with the knitting/crocheting ministry. She misses her church family immensely but won't risk coming out this winter. She has never been away this long and can't wait to return. Meanwhile Carol Markley stops by with bulletins and others call and send cards. If you want to drop her a note her address is: 60 Edmund Drive Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Scout Sunday worship was once again led by Troop 1, under the fine guidance of Glenn Harrison. The youth did a great job offering music and sharing messages that morning. Check out some pictures from that day on our website at BallstonSpachurch.org

Did you hear the good news shared by George and Corinne Patton? They are expecting another baby! Their daughter Loralai will be a wonderful big sister. They ask for prayers for a healthy pregnancy. (Pastor Kelly is already planning ahead, dreaming of the child being our "baby Jesus" for Christmas!)

Bill and Kathy Haege have left for an extended visit to Florida. The choir will miss Kathy's voice and we will all miss Bill's baking! Diane and Ron

Solotruck were planning to also head south to Florida this week but their plans are delayed until June. Diane is our coordinator for Lay Liturgists. If you want to volunteer to assist the pastor during worship, call Diane at 885-5280.

One of our church members, Holly Flynn, did a great Children's Message during worship in February. She told the kids that she helps oversee the RED bookshelf program as part of her job. She said RED stands for Read Every Day.

Check out our newly renovated bathroom at the church! Our Trustees did a thorough job making sure that space was renovated so it can function as a handicapped bathroom. Then some volunteers painted it with a neutral color, coordinating with the painted walls in the nearby room. Artwork was donated as a finishing touch, and soon there will be a side table with closed doors to store "extra" bathroom essentials. A larger (and sturdier) antique chair was donated for the entrance area. Finally, the miscellaneous crutches, walkers, etc. stored in that area have been relocated to a nearby closet. Great work to all who have made this space so functional and welcoming!



5th Annual Winter Rummage and Bake Sale

It's time for our annual Winter Rummage Sale! It will be on Saturday, March 2nd. We will accept house wares, small furniture items, clothes, linens, toys (in decent condition), games, puzzles, books, sporting goods, etc.

Please remember, NO electronics, TVs, computers, car seats, big furniture or mattresses. Items must be clean and in decent shape.

We will be accepting items Wednesday, February 27 from 4 – 8 PM, Thursday, February 28 from 8 AM to noon, and Friday, March 1st from 9 AM to 4 PM in the Fellowship Room. If you have any questions you may contact Melody Babcock, Debbie Thompson, Janet or George Mallette.

5K Thank You Dinner

The next 5K Thank You dinner will be 6 PM on Thursday, March 28th at the Recovery Sports Grill in Malta (Route 9 next to CVS). Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, March 10th in the Connections Cafe. Since we will order off of the

menu, no advance payment is required, but please sign up by Tuesday, March 26 so we can notify the restaurant of the number of attendees. Please contact Melody Babcock (518.490.20i5) or Stan Lockwood (518.885.1552) with any questions. Thank you to all who participate in these dinners to show BSUMCs appreciation to our 5K sponsors.



Interested in Joining Our Church Family?

Join Pastor Kelly on Sunday, March 3rd after worship. Enjoy brunch, meet and greet others and begin to learn about our history and beliefs as United Methodists. This group will meet a second time in March (time to be determined by the group) and will join the church on March 31st. Speak to Pastor Kelly or call the church office (518-885-6886) if you plan to join.



Regional Food Bank

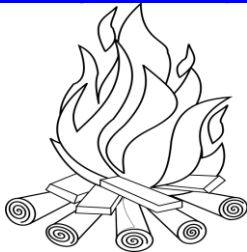
Thank you to these hardy bodies who sorted frozen meat for two hours last Sunday: Melody Babcock, Jackie Capone, Dorothy Collins, Jan and George Mallette, Gayle Parrotte (Linda's sister), Carrie Sheeran, Gina Pandolfo (Carrie's college roommate), Linda and John Sheeran, Debbie Thompson, Pastor Kelly, Mark, and Katie Warner. The ice cream and camaraderie afterwards was fun too!

First Fellowship Event

What a wonderful time we had at our First 2019 Fellowship Event! There were 22 people who gathered for dinner and karaoke on February 16th. Some people even danced! The evening was full of fun and laughter and we are looking forward to our next event. Please plan on joining us!

Skye Farm Camp is Calling Out to Parents and Kids!

There may be a few feet of snow on the ground, but the summer camp schedule is ready. Brochures are available, and all the details can be found at <http://www.skyefarmcamp.org/>.



Skye Farm is for Adults too!

Plans are being made for a retreat at Skye Farm for **May 17 and 18**, Friday – Saturday. Skye Farm is located in the tall Adirondack pines of Warrensburg, on beautiful Sherman Lake. What would you like to do? Hike, watch a movie, sit around a campfire? What would you like to eat? Burgers, hotdogs, salads, sandwiches? S'mores for sure! Help plan your getaway! The cost will be determined by the number of participants, and our activities.

Contact Linda Sheeran at 518-885-1729 or sheeran6@gmail.com.



Lenten Ecumenical Lunches

The Village churches of Ballston Spa (Alliance, Baptist, Episcopal, Hope, Methodist & Presbyterian) will hold an ecumenical Lenten lunch series entitled "TRANSFORMATION – HOW DOES JESUS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?" on Wednesdays during Lent (March 13 – April 17) from 12:00-12:50 pm at Christ Episcopal Church (15 W. High St., Ballston Spa). All are welcome each week as we share in a **FREE** meal and hear a brief reflection led by the village clergy.

For more information, please contact Father Derik Roy at 518-366-5160.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

The focus of this committee is building strong relationships between the staff and the congregation, and between the congregation and

the district superintendent (DS). Finding a balance between building relationships and handling administrative tasks can be difficult, so the ministry of this committee is crucial for a vital and effective congregation.

We welcome new members Diane Solotruck, and Riley Schmidt. Other members: Pastor Kelly Warner, Jackie Capone (Chair), Thelma Armer, Danielle Coffey, Tom Forster, Joyce Garlock, Joan Glossner, and Linda Sheeran.



Spring Fun Event!!

Birdhouse and Banner Decorating for Village Display
Provided by local artist

Mark Blech
BSUMC Fellowship Room
March 30th from 1pm to 4 pm
Refreshments and all supplies provided!



Winter weather kept us from church and really messed up our schedule of events but we are persevering! The Sunday school had to cancel their field trip to the local laundromat on February 10th to deliver some of the books we were lucky to collect. The kids are now going on March 3rd during regular Sunday school. The Red Bookshelf recirculates gently used children's books back into the community where they are made available free for families to own.

We are also looking forward to our big field trip in March 10th to Rock the Spectrum in Burnt Hills. We also have some other mission ideas in our back

pocket, we are very excited and will share them soon!

We continue to use our curriculum Whirl and the children really enjoy the weekly video stories that accompany this series. We are looking forward to the coming season of Lent and Easter and hope to learn all about these events in Sunday school. We look forward to having them and teaching them each week! What a blessing they are to us!

District News

Wonderful Turnout Expected for Adirondack District Day on March 2!

More than 90 people have registered for our District Day, "Informed to Transform", on Saturday, March 2 at Saratoga Springs UMC. Please note that there will be a similar District Day at Plattsburgh UMC on Saturday, Oct. 19 if you are unable to attend this one. At this time, our attendees include Pastor Kelly Warner, Ruth Persons, and Linda Sheeran. Pastor Kelly will be teaching two workshops: How to be a Savvy SPRC and Opening the Gates to Giving.

Annual Conference: Two Meanings!

An annual conference is a unique geographic area of The United Methodist Church. Each annual conference is assigned a bishop and elects volunteer leadership for the conference. The annual conference session is the annual meeting of the lay and clergy members of that geographical area. This meeting sets direction and budget for the area, and the bishop appoints clergy members to their place of service for the next year.

General Conference

Every four years all the annual conferences of the United States, along with the central and missionary conferences, meet together to review and enact new legislation or approve new initiatives of the The United Methodist Church. The General Conference enacts legislation and speaks for the church. The Council of Bishops oversees the life of the church based upon the legislation passed by the General Conference. The Judicial Council ensures our work remains in agreement with our Constitution. These actions may have direct impact on the ministry of the local congregation through changes to the policy of The United Methodist Church as documented in *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*. This conference is held in the years divisible by four (2016, 2020, 2024...). The year before, each annual conference elects lay and clergy delegates to represent them at General Conference.

Special Session of General Conference

In February 2019, The United Methodist Church will hold a [special session of General Conference](#), something that has only [happened once before](#) in our 50 year history. Our bishops called this gathering, at the request of the 2016 General Conference, to help us find a way forward through our deep disagreements about same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy.

At the time of this writing, February 23 – 26, our delegates are gathering in St. Louis, Missouri. Results of this conference will be announced and publicized.

How to Help Schroon Lake Church

This message comes from Pastor Lynnette Cole:

God has been with Schroon Lake Community Church after a fire on January 2 destroyed the church and parsonage. Thankfully, there were no injuries. Pastor Lynnette and her dog, Lumos Maxima, are OK. Sunday morning services are being held at 9 AM Sundays at the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, one block north of our church until further notice.

We are so thankful for the firefighters and all who assisted the day of the fire. Our church congregation is strong and so blessed for the outpouring of love, support and prayers during this difficult time.

Donations for the Schroon Lake Community Church can be made through our website or checks may be mailed to:

Schroon Lake Community Church
PO Box 276

Schroon Lake, NY 12870

Donations for Pastor Lynnette can be made through her GoFundMe page or checks and gift cards can be mailed to:

Skye Farm Camp and Retreat Center
c/o Pastor Lynnette Cole
1884 E. Schroon River Rd
Warrensburg, NY 12885

Safe Sanctuary



Preparing Food from “Safe Church”

Whether it is preparing potluck dinners, lunch for the daycare or a meal for a charitable fundraiser, various church employees and/or volunteers can be found in the kitchen preparing and serving meals. Even though these employees and/or volunteers have the best intentions when preparing or serving food, an accidental oversight could cause a massive case of food poisoning. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that every year approximately 76 million people in the United States become ill from harmful bacteria in food. Of these, about 5,000 die. To minimize food risks some of the following should be kept in mind:

Preparing Tips

- Only use foods before the “use by” date.
- Wash your hands with warm, soapy water for 20 seconds before and after handling food.
- Wash fruits and vegetables with cold water before using. There is no need to wash or rinse meat or poultry.
- Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and countertops with hot, soapy water before and in between using each food item.
- Use one cutting board for produce and a separate board for meat and poultry to reduce the risk of salmonella and other bacteria causing illnesses. Using different color cutting boards for different food items will help reduce cross contamination.
- Separate raw, cooked, and ready-to-eat foods while shopping, preparing, or storing. Never place cooked food on a plate that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood.
- Keep juices from different food items from mixing.
- Marinate meat, seafood, and poultry in the refrigerator in a covered, non-metallic container.
- To properly thaw frozen meat, it's best to plan for slow, safe thawing in the refrigerator. Allow about one day for every five pounds of meat to thaw in the refrigerator.
- Many people assume that if a hamburger is brown in the middle, it is done. However, looking at the color and texture of food is not enough – you have to use a food thermometer to be sure. According to USDA research, one out of every four hamburgers turns brown before it reaches a safe internal temperature. The only safe way to know if

meat, poultry and egg dishes are done is to use a food thermometer. Below are USDA recommended safe minimum internal temperatures:

Egg dishes – 160 degrees Fahrenheit
Fish – 145 degrees Fahrenheit
Ground beef – 160 degrees Fahrenheit
Pork – 160 degrees Fahrenheit
Poultry, whole and chicken breasts – 165 degrees Fahrenheit
Steaks and roasts – 145 degrees Fahrenheit



- 3/1 Elana Lotto
- 3/3 Christian Morrison
- 3/5 Troy Caswell
- 3/6 Haley Ann Parlapiano
- 3/9 Sara Curcio, Matt Kelley, Carrie Sheeran, Anna Wilson
- 3/10 Kevin Grentzer
- 3/11 Emily Groff, Douglas McAuliffe, Heather Staulters
- 3/12 Donovan Calvert, Jacob Wyland, Maria Dickerson, Kimberly Poteralski
- 3/18 Mark Schmidt
- 3/23 Will Clark, Liam Collins, Jennifer Schmidt
- 3/24 John Sheeran
- 3/25 Sarah Clark, Ryder Skillings
- 3/26 Abigail McCumber
- 3/29 Jennifer Briggs, Eliana Briggs, Brennan Coffey
- 3/30 Donna Conley, Dick Traver, Karina Greco



- 3/6 Mark & Jennifer Schmidt
- 3/10 Melissa & Dennis Taylor

Life's Passages...



Leslie Brown 1955-2019

Condolences to Kim Ferguson on
the passing of her sister

**Please let the Church Office know if there are
any additions and/or corrections.**

MARCH

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the April issue of The Tidings newsletter is March 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

March Tidings

Church Office Phone

518-885-6886

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Pastor Kelly Warner

Tuesday – Thursday (all day)

Email

bsumc@albany.twcbc.com

Web Site

Ballstonspaumchurch.org

“Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.”