

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***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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to receive this
publication.**

The Tidings

April 2019**Ballston Spa United Methodist Church****101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020**

Pastor's Column

Greetings,

Each Sunday morning for seven weeks, a large wooden cross will hold a prominent place in the center of our altar. It is there during Lent to help us grasp the sacrificial love of God shown through his son Jesus Christ as he "died for us while we were yet sinners". The radical, too-good-to-be-true love of God revealed at Calvary is foreshadowed in the parable of the prodigal son.

A loving, generous father runs toward his rebellious son, his arms open in forgiveness. The prodigal, guilty of so much and preoccupied with rehearsing his apologies, was caught off guard by the eager father. No punishment landed on the lad, instead he was restored to his previous place of honor. A lavish party was thrown, where many from the family and community came and witnessed the son's full restoration, thus making his new status "official".

This parable from Luke 15 remains my absolute favorite. You may recall my enthusiasm as I shared a sermon on it on March 23rd! If you have a Bible with the words of Christ printed in red letters, I urge you to read those powerful passages for the remaining weeks of Lent. I believe God will open your mind and heart to many potent and precious truths.

May the cross of Christ be ever before us on our Lenten journey,

Pastor Kelly



Lenten Journey

Fast and Feast

Rev. David Lubba shows us a way where we can fast, and feast at the same time to show our penance during Lent.

Here are some suggestions:

- **fast** from criticism...**feast** on praise
- **fast** from self-pity...**feast** on joy
- **fast** from ill-temper...**feast** on peace
- **fast** from resentment...**feast** on contentment
- **fast** from jealousy...**feast** on love
- **fast** from pride...**feast** on humility
- **fast** from selfishness...**feast** on service
- **fast** from fear...**feast** on faith
- **fast** from defeat...**feast** on victory
- **fast** from busyness...**feast** on making space for God



Lenten Ecumenical Lunches

The Village churches of Ballston Spa (Alliance, Baptist, Episcopal, Hope, Methodist & Presbyterian) are holding 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.

Easter Flowers

There is an order form on the tables in the Connections Cafe for Easter flowers to decorate our sanctuary. They may be to honor or remember a special person in your life. The flowers may be removed from the altar after the Easter service. Please see Carol Markley to order or with any questions.



Schedule of Events

There will be a service on Maundy Thursday, April 18th at 7 pm in the Connections Café. This is the night Jesus was betrayed. He knelt before each of his disciples to bathe their soiled feet. So, we now humble ourselves before the Lord in confession, that we may "come clean," free from all shame and condemnation.

On Good Friday, April 19th the sanctuary will be open from noon to 3 pm. You are invited to use that time for prayer, scripture reading and reflection. This is an historic Christian tradition since these are the hours that Christ hung and died on the cross for our sins.

On Good Friday, April 19th at 7 pm we will be having a Christian Seder meal. A Seder meal is a Jewish tradition that was set out in the book of Exodus as a means of remembering the original Passover when the Hebrews were finally freed from the clutches of Pharaoh. A Christian Seder takes the same basic preparation and elements of this Jewish meal and ritual and modifies some of the parts in order to affirm how Jesus has fulfilled many of the prayers, customs and symbols within the ritual. The reason that a Christian Seder is most appropriately celebrated on Holy Thursday is that the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples was almost certainly a Seder meal. This tradition deepens our appreciation and understanding of the Last Supper but strengthens our identity as a people closely related to our spiritual elder brothers — the Jews.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Connections Café. We encourage everyone, especially families with children, to come out for this memorable evening. (Ben Taylor will be our Lego Master helping to create a scene on our tables with Moses crossing the Red Sea.) Please join us for an enlightening evening.


What Is on the Passover Plate?

The foods on the Seder plate form the centerpiece of the table in a Passover meal. They remind us of the struggle of the Israelites in their quest and journey to freedom.

- Haroset is a mixture of chopped walnuts, wine, cinnamon and apples. This nut and fruit paste represents the bricks and mortar used by the Jewish slaves to build the Pharaoh's cities and pyramids in Egypt.
- Betzah (a hard-boiled egg) is a symbol of sacrifice and of the continuity of life.
- Maror are bitter herbs like grated horseradish, which reflect the bitter affliction of slavery.
- Zeroa (the shank bone of a lamb) is symbolic of the sacrificial lamb killed as an offering at the first Passover.
- Karpas (parsley) is a reminder of the frugal meals eaten in slavery, and it is a symbol of springtime. It is dipped in salt water to remind us of the tears of Jewish slaves during their captivity.


Easter morning, we will have our annual pot-luck breakfast before church. Join together for great food and fellowship as we prepare to worship Christ's resurrection together. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Connections Café to coordinate the meal.

**WHY DON'T WE
SING
ALLELUIA
DURING LENT?**




Why do we sing the Alleluia in the first place?

Alleluia is a joyful word, and as we sing Alleluia, we join in the heavenly worship of the choirs of angels. "Alleluia" reminds us that as we participate in Mass, we participate in God's kingdom established on earth.



Alleluia
A Hebrew word that means "praise Yahweh."

During Lent, we
**focus on the
Kingdom coming**,
not on the Kingdom come. For this reason, we don't sing the Alleluia, but instead acknowledge our sins and repent so that we may one day worship God in heaven as the angels do.



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Mission and Outreach News

Summer Lunch Program

There will be an organizational meeting of the Summer Lunch Program on Thursday, April 4, 7 PM at the First Baptist Church. If you're interested in volunteering and/or receiving information about the program, you're welcome to join us or see Debbie Thompson, Program Co-Director.



Fair Trade

The April Fair Trade sale will be Palm Sunday, April 14th after worship. We will have coffee, tea, hot chocolate and, of course, **dark chocolate bars** just in time for Easter. We will again be set up just outside the South Entrance to the Connections Cafe. Thank you to all who support this ministry which assists small farmers in developing countries to make a living.

Food Pantry News

In the first two months of 2019 the Food Pantry has served 117 families which included 256 adults and 123 children. In January we received a large donation of food and a monetary donation from the Ballston Spa Rotary Club. We recently received a grant from the Food Pantries of the Capital District in the amount of \$677. We will be purchasing Stewart's milk cards and the remainder will be placed on our account at the Latham Regional Food Bank.

Thank you for all who have volunteered at the Food Pantry in any way.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Senecal

Prayer Shawl Update

*"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing,
symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God.*

*They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace,
mother, hug, shelter and beautify.*

*Those who have received these shawls have been
uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to
fly above their troubles..."*

Written in 1998 by: Janet Severi Bristow Copyright ©2019

Our Prayer Shawl people have been busy in their crafts creating beautiful shawls available to all to take for either themselves or to share with others. If you would like to join this dedicated group, they meet at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month. In April it will be on the 17th. If you would like to donate yarn, there are baskets in the back of the sanctuary for that purpose.

Church Happenings

Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Bible Study continue each Sunday morning from 8:45 to 9:30 am during April. There will be coffee hour in our Connection Café and the study group will meet in the nursery room.

Keeping our connection as a church family

Our custodian, Tom Chase, had his heart procedure. He is so dedicated he took almost no time off...and does an excellent job as our custodian!

Bill and Kathy Haege are in Florida for an extended visit. They met up with Cathy and Jerry King for lunch at a restaurant overlooking the beach and Gulf waters. How wonderful!

Heather Forster is doing rehab after her recent knee surgery. Please keep her in your prayers.

We Have New Members

We are happy to welcome our new members to our church, Marcia and Dave Edwards and Mark and Katie Warner. They are all from the Hudson Falls UMC and joined our church on March 31st.

April Fool Fun

We are having another fun night! Join us on Monday, April 1st at 6:30 pm for dessert and fun. Come with some good jokes or magic tricks to share. There will again be music and maybe even a surprise to two. After all, it is April Fool's Day!



5th Annual Winter Rummage and Bake Sale

The annual winter rummage sale was enjoyed by all. Customers were waiting at the door for us to open. The money raised was: rummage sale \$832.85, bake sale \$150.67 and lunch \$47.75 totaling \$1,031.27. Many customers commented that they look forward to the sale each winter. Again, thank you to all who contributed.

Serving Christ,
Melody Babcock, George and Jan Mallette and Debbie Thompson



5K Thank You Dinner

The April 5K Thank You "Dinner" will actually be a lunch at 1:00 PM on Saturday, April 13th at the Lake Ridge Restaurant in the Village of Round Lake. Please sign-up on the clipboard in the Connections Cafe by Wednesday, April 10th so we can notify the restaurant regarding the number of those attending. Please contact Melody Babcock (518.490.2015) or Stan Lockwood (518.885.1552) if you have any questions regarding this event. All are welcome to join us for these meals to thank our 5K Sponsors and generous contributors to our run.

Flags and Birdhouses

Keep an eye out for newly painted flags and wooden birdhouses around the village. Our church hosted one of the community painting events on Saturday, March 30th. Our thanks go out to Karen Groff.

Summer Camp Registration is Open!

It may be frigid outside, but what better time to look forward to summer! Registration is now open for Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries summer programs, including your classic favorites and some new adventures!

Go to <http://campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2019>, or pick up a brochure on the Welcome tables, and plan your kids' summer fun at Skye Farm!



Weekend Getaway at Skye Farm, May 17-18, 2019

Enjoy some time in the Adirondacks at Skye Farm, a UM gem of a camp just north of Warrensburg. Hiking and canoeing. Burgers and S'mores. Games or quiet time. It is up to you what you want out of this escape. RSVP to Linda Sheeran at 518-885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com. *Everyone is invited- families, singles, couples.*

District News

Benefit for the Schroon Lake UMC

There will be a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Schroon Lake UMC, 4 to 6 PM Saturday, April 6, First UMC of Warrensburg, 3890 Main St., Warrensburg (12885). Dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, cake and beverage. Take-out available. Adults, \$10; ages 6 and under, \$5. For more information, contact Jamiee Ross, (518) 623-2899. Schroon Lake UMC lost its church and parsonage to a fire on Jan. 2.



Safe Sanctuary Training

The standard Safe Sanctuaries training will be held from 9 AM to Noon on **Saturday, June 1** at the South Glens Falls UMC, 15 Maplewood Parkway, South Glens Falls (12803). **Please arrive by 8:45 AM to register.** Please take this opportunity to do the training so that you may be able to be a volunteer roamer for the Sunday School. We need your help!!

Adirondack District United Methodist Women

The Adirondack District UMW will be having a spring gathering on Saturday, May 4th at the Mountain Community UMC in Speculator, NY. It will start at 9:15 am with registration and fellowship. The program begins at 10 am. Registration is \$1 and Lunch is \$5 and is due by April 26. Forms are on the back tables of the sanctuary. For more information please see Ilah Sisson Walser.



- 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
Paul MacMillin, Jennifer
- 4/14 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
- 4/11 Sheri & Jerry Litchfield
- 4/14 Melody & Richard Babcock
- 4/16 Peggy & Dick Traver
- 4/29 Lynne and Jeff Blake
- 4/30 Kristen & Lance Evans

Recent Baptisms

Emma Jean Jones
And
Aiden James O'Connor

Life's Passages...

Glenn Bowers Sr.
7/13/48 – 3/25/19

And
Condolences to Kim Ferguson on
the passing of her father



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



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the May issue of The Tidings newsletter is April 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, 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.”