



March, 2016

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Pastor

Rev. Patti Molik

Minister of Music

Cathy King

Asst. Minister of Music

Kathy Haeger

Office Assistant

Kelly Schmidt

Custodian

Charity Buckbee

Lay Leaders

Kerri Preston

David Lotto

Lay Member UNYAC

Linda Sheeran

SPRC Chair

Pat Brewster

Treasurer

Lynne Blake

Finance Chair

Donald VanVranken

Trustee Chair

George Mallette

Christian Education

Grace Paster

Church Council Chair

Gary Wilson

Church Office Phone

885-6886

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Pastor's Cell Phone

281-4453

E-Mail

bsumc@albany.twcbc.com

Pastor's E-Mail

pastorpatti07@gmail.com

Web Site

ballstonspaumchurch.org

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

3-1 Finance (P)

3-2 Lenten Luncheon @ First Presbyterian Church

3-4 Movie Night (donations accepted for 2016 mission trip)

3-6 Worship/Sunday School

3-7 Bible Study – "Jesus and his Places" (P)

3-9 Lenten Luncheon @ First Presbyterian Church

3-9 Church Council (P)

3-10 Trustees (P)

3-10 Dinner at Pizza Works

3-11 Set-up for the Rummage Sale (FR)

3-12 2nd Annual Rummage Sale (FR)

3-13 Worship and Sunday School

3-13 Contemporary Worship Service (P)

3-14 Bible Study – "Jesus and his Places" (P)

3-16 Lenten Luncheon @ First Presbyterian Church

3-16 SPRC (P)

3-17 Prayer Shawl (P)

3-18 FOGGS (4th & 5th grade) Youth Group (P)

3-19/3-20 Youth Lock-In

3-20 Worship and Sunday School – Palm Sunday

3-21 Bible Study – "Jesus and his Places" (P)

3-24 Maundy Thursday Service @ First Presbyterian Church

3-25 Good Friday Service @ First Presbyterian Church

3-26 Free Lunch (FR)

3-27 Easter Potluck Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

3-27 Worship – Easter Sunday

7:15 PM

12:10-12:50 PM

6:00 PM

10:00 AM

10:00 AM

12:10-12:50 PM

7:00 PM

6:00 PM

6:30 PM

10:00 AM-7:00 PM

8:00 AM-4:00 PM

10:00 AM

6:30 PM

10:00 AM

12:10-12:50 PM

6:45 PM

6:30 PM

6:00-7:30 PM

11:00 AM

10:00 AM

10:00 AM

7:00 PM

7:00 PM

11:30 AM

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

S=Sanctuary, FR=Fellowship Room, P=Parlor, CH=Church House, HSR=High School Room, SS=Sunday School Area





Greetings in the great name of Jesus,

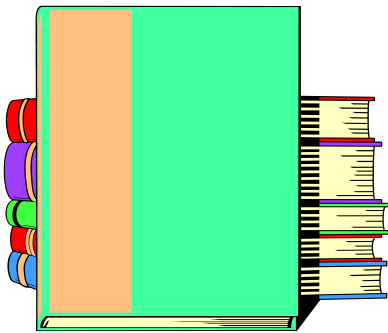
I was here on retreat and listening to the movie Ragamuffin. This is the life story of Christian musician Rich Mullins. It is an amazing story of a young man's journey trying to run from the pain he developed from his family and his search for the truth of God's love. The story is amazing in teaching others the power of redemption and the ability to forgive.

As we journey through Lent and move closer to Easter, we know that without pain, just as Jesus experienced, we would never experience the joy and hope found in the resurrection. John writes: "Peace be with you. ... Then he breathed on them and said 'Receive the Holy Spirit'." (John 20: 21-22 NLT)

Let us remember that God gives us the power to forgive and the knowledge of being forgiven through the drawing of the Holy Spirit through grace. So just as God breathed on the disciples in the upper room, let God breathe on you.

Until next month,

Rev. Patti



LIBRARY CORNER

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE GOLDEN SOUL By Jack Canfield et.al.

Through touching, entertaining and inspiring stories, this collection shares the stories of people sixty and over who are redefining the expression "better with age" by greeting life's joys and challenges with grace, vibrancy and a positive attitude.

Although especially written for those sixty and over, each story conveys timeless truths about how anyone can live with maximum meaning and enjoyment. (Taken from book cover.)

Marilynn Peterson



Birthdays

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
3-13 Scott Bryant
3-18 Mark Schmidt
3-22 Don VanVranken
3-23 Will Clark; Liam Collins; Jennifer Schmidt
3-24 John Sheeran
3-25 Sarah Clark; Agnes VanVranken, Ryder Skillings
3-26 Abigail McCumber
3-29 Jennifer Briggs; Eliana Briggs; Brennan Coffey
3-30 Donna Conley; Dick Traver; Karina Greco
3-31 Brian Wainwright

Anniversaries

3-6 Mark & Jennifer Schmidt
3-10 Melissa & Dennis Taylor
3-24 Don & Agnes VanVranken

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



Does the office have your e-mail address?

Contact the office at bsumc@albany.twcbc.com so we can add you to our mailing list. Please let us know if you'd like to receive **The Tidings** electronically. Also, remember to visit our website (www.ballstonspaumchurch.org) and find BSUMC on **Facebook** so you can keep up-to-date on all of the good things happening at our church!

BSUMC EMAIL PRAYER MINISTRY

If you are interested in being a member of our BSUMC email prayer ministry, please contact Peggy Traver at pchurchmouse@earthlink.net.

Anyone may also submit prayer requests in this way, but be certain to get permission from the individual or family concerned.



Fair Trade items will be offered for sale following the worship service on March 20th. We will have dark chocolate candy bars (just in time for Easter), hot cocoa, tea and coffee.

Thank you to all members for supporting the BSUMC Fair Trade efforts through the purchase of these fair trade items for your own use, or as gifts, and also through your support of the church coffee hour following Sunday church services.



Adult voice choir will be on a break until further notice.

Children's voice choir will be on a break until further notice.

ABC (Adult Bell Choir) will be on a break until further notice.

CBC (Children's Bell Choir) will be on a break until further notice.



Sunday, March 13 is our next **outreach to Embury Apartments in the Wesley Community**. We are singing Hymns for Lent and Easter. 3-4 pm is set-up. 4-5 singing and 5-6 fellowship with refreshments. BSUMC is welcome to join us for any part of this outreach. Call Shirley or email for directions. 490-2006, sandrew1@nycap.rr.com



Church Family Movie Night!! **MINIONS**

Friday, March 4th at 6:00 pm
Popcorn & Snacks provided!!

(Donations accepted for Mission Trip 2016)



Upper Room Thrift Shop & Food Pantry

The Thrift Shop has lots of good used clothing of all sizes available for \$2.00 a bag, as full as you want to get it. It is open every Tuesday from **9:30 am to noon**. Just come in the front door of the Church House and go up the stairs. Good used clothing in all sizes is accepted. Thank you to all who donate to the thrift shop. For those who are donating clothing we ask if it is possible to try to give seasonal items as our storage is extremely limited in the shop.

Good News! During the month of March, the thrift shop will once again hold its "March Madness Sale"; fill one our bags for only \$1.00! Share the news!

The Food Pantry is open every Wednesday from **9:30 am to noon**. Our new entrance is now open, up the ramp and in the side door of the Church House, so come and receive a good variety of food. Visits are limited to once a month.

We are fortunate to have such a giving community that helps provide the pantry with all kinds of food. They sometimes give money in memory of someone. We use that to purchase from the Regional Food Bank in Latham at a good price. We also receive a grant once a year from the Food Bank.

The items we usually need are cereal, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce and personal care products. Donations for the food pantry and thrift shop can be brought in any time the office is open. Thanks to everyone who has helped in any way to make these projects such a success. Thanks also to those who work in them.



Saturday April 9th

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Middle & High School Youth will be hosting a
SPAGHETTI DINNER
to raise funds for Mission Trip 2016

Dinner will consist of spaghetti & meatballs, salad, garlic bread, beverages and a dessert.

Adults: \$8.00 Kids 10 & under: \$5.00

Come and enjoy a night of fellowship and support the youth in mission!



This month the team has met and discussed the books: Encounter With The Holy and Holy Discontent. These have brought great discussion. I have included Sheba Azarm, a member of the team's thoughts about participating in this process.

My thoughts on Hand To Plow

When I first read about Hand to Plow I thought the church was partnering with a local farm to plow and plant. That thought sounded intriguing, so I requested more information. I was informed that Hand to Plow was a process to grow the membership of the church by reading a few books and attending a couple of meetings. It seemed easy enough, so I signed up. 5 meetings and 2 books later my thoughts have been all over the place. My most recurring thought is: *Am I in the right place? This should be left to the professionals or someone with strong faith.* Neither of which I profess to be or have. I have learned a lot over the past few months. I have met quite a few wonderful people. Some of them are from Ballston Spa United Methodist Church! I'm learning how to recognize what is working, what no longer works and the very difficult what may work in the future to grow the church. Do I know exactly what I can do to help grow disciples for Jesus Christ? No, but I do have faith that God will lead me there.



**Annual Pork Dinner and
Bake Sale
May 7, 2016
4:00-6:30**



NEW- Africa 360 Lenten Devotional

The Upper New York Annual Conference has created a Lenten Devotional for Africa 360, bringing together clergy and laity from the Conference to share their stories and inspire individuals, small groups, and congregations all across the Conference.

We are called to Connect Globally.

"The themes of Lent connect us to our need to consider how we will live out our confession of faith – individually and corporately – in very practical ways. How will we be the ones who are used by God to offer the light of Jesus in the midst of the world? How will we address the injustices within our communities with the Gospel truth? How will we reach, with the grace of God, to the people that are placed in our paths, people struggling with broken relationships, addiction, violence, poverty, and "isms"? How will we continue to move beyond our own wants to care for the needs of others in the name of Jesus?"

Bishop Mark J. Webb

"For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11

"Education is important because it allows us to better ourselves and to help make the world better. I hope that our sisters and brothers are able to make the world a better place and to help God's people better themselves and bring them closer to God. I believe other graduates can connect to the stories of Africa University because some come from hardships in their lives and attend college to better themselves, just like the graduates of Africa University.

Cody Taylor, member of Medina UMC

Prayer: God, thank you for education and the doors it opens across the world.

Challenge: Give \$1 to Africa 360 in honor of each college student in your congregation.

Each church in the UNY Conference is being challenged to bring \$1000 to Annual Conference in May 2016. Please consider giving based on the challenge above- \$1 per college student. **For BS UMC, that would be a proud \$8.** What a blessed way to honor those continuing their education.

* Africa 360 combines the efforts of **Imagine No Malaria** and **Africa University**, helping eliminate deaths from malaria and raising leaders to improve infrastructure in Africa. Fighting poverty and disease, these two initiatives fit into a larger story of who God calls us to be in community with one another. Questions or concerns? Contact Linda Sheeran at 885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com



Regional Food Bank Volunteer Day Sunday, April 3, 2016 1-3 pm

Bring your lunch to church. We will eat downstairs in the Fellowship Room, then carpool to Latham. We will be sorting in the Warehouse. All ages are welcome. Wear sturdy shoes and a Ballston Spa UMC shirt, if you have one. Bringing a friend along introduces them to the work of the Food Bank and makes the job go faster. Sign up on the clip board in the parlor or contact Linda Sheeran at 885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com

Do Church! Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus in the World!



Pizza Works has been one of our valued 5K sponsors for many years and we would like to return the favor by gathering there on Thursday, March 10 at 6:30. The total cost per person will be \$10.50 for salad, pizza, soda and includes tax and tip. Please contact Stan Lockwood at 885-1552 or Melody Babcock at 490-2015 if you are interested in attending and with your pizza selections.



March 13th



The 10 Commandments of Food

A January World Economic Forum session on how food choices can become a catalyst for positive change became an opportunity for World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit to present "Ten Commandments" of food to the gathered business and political leaders.

"If we view food through the lens of justice, every plate of food reminds us of certain challenges and opportunities. It is important that we acknowledge the efforts, investments and very lives of living plants and creatures sacrificed to provide food on our tables," reflected Tveit after the event.

Tveit's ten commandments of food are:

- 1. You shall give thanks for the food you eat.**
- 2. You shall provide food for those who have no food.**
- 3. You shall eat mindfully and in moderation.**
- 4. You shall be grateful to those who grow and prepare food for your table.**
- 5. You shall not waste food.**
- 6. You shall reduce the ecological footprint of food production and supply.**
- 7. You shall protect the biodiversity of the sources of food.**
- 8. You shall support fair wages for farmers' efforts.**
- 9. You shall strive for all people to have access to affordable and nutritious food.**
- 10. You shall rejoice and share the sacred gift of food with all.**

Tveit added: "Food is sacred, as it is a gift of God to sustain our lives through sharing, celebration, gratitude, sacrifice and renewal. In our common home — the Earth — we have to work together to limit climate change and other barriers to food security so that food can be made available to all today and in the years to come.

Rev. Adam Hamilton nominated to President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior, and founding, pastor at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. (the largest United Methodist Church in the US) and celebrated author, will also be the guest Bible study leader at the 2016 sessions of the Upper New York Annual Conference.

Reverend Hamilton is the author of 23 books, including *Making Sense of the Bible*. Reverend Hamilton speaks on leadership across the country and in 2013, he delivered the sermon at the Inaugural Prayer Service held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Reverend Hamilton received a B.A. from Oral Roberts University and an M.Div from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

What is a Covenant Discipleship small group?

Jesus chose a small group of 12 to start His ministry when He was 30 years old. They met daily, prayed and studied OT as Jesus often referred to those Scriptures. Mainly He spoke His Father's words as He never did or said anything that His Father was not doing or saying. He had an intimately deep, deep relationship with His Dad. (We call Him "Heavenly Father", but I think He loves to be called "Dad" as well). The Disciples hung onto His words and asked many questions. It was obvious to them that this man, who tapped them on the shoulder, one at a time and said "Come, follow Me" was not only a man full of power but definitely a man with a new and exhilarating message! Remember that only one betrayed Him! 11 handpicked sinners, with souls not unlike our own, lived a life of surrender so that you and I could have the privilege of studying the scriptures, learning to pray God's word, coming together with our Bibles in small groups to share our lives, the good and the not so good things that all sinners fight through on a daily basis. Our soul is made up of our mind, our will and our emotions. Yes, we do need each other to help us walk uprightly with Jesus. Wesley's question to work through at meetings was: How is it with your soul? Looking into the Bible for answers was how these first Methodists ministered to each other, bringing their spiritual gifts to help each other grow in grace after grace. I understand this to be our walk of "Sanctification" with God. So "How is it with your soul?"

John Wesley embraced the "small group" example that Jesus set forth in the Gospels and then, low and behold, as the number of groups were increased the Wesley brothers became the founders of the Methodist Church here in America. If you ever get to Georgia, go to the coast and visit St Simon Island. Huge monuments to John and Charles Wesley and a small Anglican Church (now called Episcopal) with stained glass windows of John and Charles with Bibles in hand. Before the church was built, John and Charles preached under the Live Oaks, huge spreading trees giving a lot of shade. I'm sure the shade felt wonderful in Georgia temperatures for the worshipers who loved God and each other so many years ago.

As some of you know, I have led a small group called "Healthy Living Bible Study" off and on for the last three years. We have made some wonderful friendships among us. We have a woman from the Galway UMC that is in our once a month Covenant Discipleship group that meets at my house now since we finished the study we were doing together at our church. Susan will now become a small group leader in her church and the Sanctification process (I like to call it "Cooperating with God to be more like Jesus") will continue and Disciples will be empowered to "Make Disciples For the Transformation of the World". You all will recognize that as the Mission Statement of the United Methodist Church.

I will be starting a "Singles Group" probably in April. It will start as a small group with just 3 meetings before June. We will be studying Judges 13 – 16. Why those Chapters? I'm glad you asked. We will have the opportunity to go to the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre in Lancaster, PA near the end of May. This year's production is "Samson". Those 4 Chapters of the Old Testament are the story of Samson. Knowing the story, with all the details, will help us to enjoy the performance, both drama and music. This will be my 7th trip to this theatre. Yes, I love their performances. The Bible does literally come alive on stage. The Wade bus trip is two days with one overnight in Lancaster. Let me know ASAP if you want to get in on this trip. I will be making the reservations as soon as you let me know. The dates for the trip are: Monday and Tuesday, May 23 and 24. I am rooming with a Burnt Hills friend. We have been in several small Discipleship groups together over the years.

Watch the green sheet for when we will be having our first small group meeting.

Let's go deeper with Christ together,

Shirley Andrews, CLM

Lenten Luncheon – Each Wednesday during Lent from 12:10-12:50 pm local Ballston Spa churches gather for lunch and a devotional time at the **First Presbyterian Church** (22 West High St.). A brief reflection is led by a different Ballston Spa pastor each week. This year's theme is: **Reflection on the Cross**.

DATE	SPEAKER	Lunch
2/17	Rev. Bennett, Presbyterian	Methodist
2/24	Rev. Molik, Methodist	Baptist
3/2	Rev. Tatum, Baptist	Episcopal
3/9	Father Roy, Episcopal	Presbyterian
3/16	Rev. Newton, Alliance	Potluck

2nd ANNUAL



CABIN FEVER GOT YOU DOWN? We've got the remedy for that!

Come on in to the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church, 101 Milton Avenue, for a RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE on Saturday, March 12, 8 AM – 4 PM, Fellowship Room (located at the rear of the Church). We will be offering a good variety of furniture, linens, sporting goods, collectibles, games, puzzles, housewares, clothing and books as well as delicious baked goods. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, soda and water also will be offered for sale. Complimentary coffee and tea will be available for you as you browse. So, shake off the winter blahs and come on in for some fantastic deals, good food and delicious baked goods.



FINANCE REPORT

When speaking of March, many people like to say, "in like a lion and out like a lamb," but the weather we've had this year may support saying, "in like a lamb and out like a lamb." The blessing here is that we've saved on fuel costs and, as of this writing, we have incurred no snow removal costs. This has enabled us to stay within our spending plan. We anticipate saving many hundreds of dollars merely as a result of the weather.

The name of March comes from Latin *Martius*, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named for Mars, the Roman god of war and agriculture. His month was the beginning of the growing season. Martius remained the first month of the Roman calendar until 153 BC and several religious observances in the first half of the month were originally new year's celebrations. Great Britain and its colonies continued to use March 25 as the first day of the year until 1752 when they adopted the Gregorian calendar.

This year, in Ballston Spa, March 25th will be Good Friday. If you have also adopted the Gregorian calendar, you celebrated New Year's Day more than 2 months ago, but you may still be putting together the remnants of 2015 in the form of tax documents and vowing to be better organized with your 2016 tax paperwork. The answer is VANCO! My sincerest thanks to those of you who are current in your pledges, whatever method you use. However, I recommend VANCO to everyone because it makes accounting so much easier for the Church.

To those of you who have not explored use of VANCO, it is an automatic, pre-scheduled withdrawal of a set amount of your tithe from a designated account of your choice (savings, checking, etc.). You get a monthly statement and at tax time, you get a tax statement. You can get the statement for your tax preparer or, if you do your own taxes, you have all the information you need on your Church donations. No more flipping through your checkbook and digging through piles of papers, hoping you saved the right thing.

Many employers now require automatic deposit of wages, so you may already be familiar with the process. If your money is automatically going into your account, think about having your tithe come out automatically too and save yourself the time and trouble of writing an extra check. You'll thank yourself at tax time. It's a change I made and it's one I recommend, regardless of when you celebrate the new year.

Yours in Christ,
Donald VanVranken



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday March, 20th Palm Sunday Worship –
10:00**

**Thursday, March 24th – Maundy Thursday Service
@ First Presbyterian Church – 7:00**

**Friday, March 25th – Good Friday Service
@ First Presbyterian Church – 7:00**

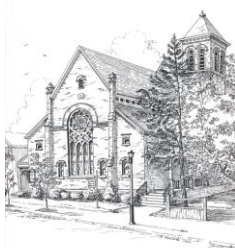
**Sunday, March 27th – Potluck Easter Breakfast in
the fellowship room beginning at 8:30 followed
by an Easter Egg Hunt**

Easter Sunday Worship – 10:00 am



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the April issue of *The Tidings* newsletter is March 17th. 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

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

101 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

March Tidings

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"