

# The Good News Gazette

March 2008

## Pastor's Notes:

Please Read: John 20:1-21:19

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

1 Peter 1:3

### Easter

by Kay Hoffman

Although it happened long ago,  
that first glad Easter day;  
within the true believer's heart,  
it's just as real today.

The Roman guards who kept the watch,  
the early morning gloom,  
the angel's words, "He is not here"  
resounding from the tomb.

And oh, the joy in Mary's heart  
while in the garden fair  
to see her blessed Lord appear  
upon the pathway there.

Although it happened long ago,  
it still is true today;  
oh, let our hearts rejoice and sing,  
the stone is rolled away.

Two young neighbors were walking home from school one sunny, crisp, late winter day. One looked at a maple tree and saw two small birds taking turns getting a drink from a sap sickle. Tammy pointed at them and said, “Look at that! Spring’s coming!” “Easter’s coming, too! I just can’t wait!” replied Sarah. Tammy giggled with delight and asked, “How come those birds remind you of Easter?” Sarah thought for a moment and said, “Well the sap must be sweet and...” Tammy interrupted her saying: “You mean that you can’t wait to get

chocolate bunnies and an Easter basket!” Sarah laughed. “Well, that’s only part true... I do like the special treats that I get on Easter but that’s not what I meant.” “Well, what did you mean?” asked Tammy. “Well,” Sarah said with a pause, “I learned in school that trees need sap in the spring to make new leaves. It makes the trees look like they came back to life. Just like Jesus did on that first Easter morning. To me Easter is more than sweet things to eat. Easter is the day when we remember that Jesus gives us all new life! In Sunday School, I learned that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. People waved palm branches and put their coats on the road. Kind of like a red carpet. But later that week after the Lord’s Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus was put on trial and then crucified on a cross. It must have been a very sad day for His mother, Mary, and His disciples. On that first Easter morning, they went to the tomb and found that Jesus had risen from the dead just as He said that He would.”

After a long moment of silence, Tammy said, “I don’t go to church that much...but I believe what you are saying is true. Why did Jesus die and come back to life again?” Sarah smiled and touched Tammy’s shoulder and said, “Well, He loves us and He forgives us. I learned this verse in Sunday School yesterday. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16) Tammy thoughtfully asked, “Are you going to church this Sunday?” Sarah replied, “Yes, why would you like to come with me?”

This Easter may we all find renewed hope and faith in our risen Lord and be willing to invite someone to church with you.

Peace, Hope & Faith in Christ’s Service,

Pastor Karen Green

\*\*\*Visitors are always welcome at The First Presbyterian Church in Chester, New York. Please join us for Sunday Services as 10:00 a.m.

## **Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday Service** will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Palms and Palm crosses will be handed out.

**Maundy Thursday Service** will be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 20<sup>th</sup>. During this service those attending will be asked to come forward to sit at table in the front of the sanctuary to receive communion by intinction. The last portion of this service will also include readings about Jesus' crucifixion and extinguishing candles and lights.

**Easter Sunrise Service** will be held at 7 a.m. on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A continental breakfast will be offered following this service.

**Easter Service** will be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. No coffee hour will be offered following this service.

## **Easter Flowers**

This year we will again be offering flowers to decorate the sanctuary. The cost of the flowers is as follows:

Easter Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils,  
Hyacinths: \$8.50 per plant

Azaleas: \$12.00 per plant

These flowers can be given as a Thank Offering, In Loving Memory of, In Honor Of, or To the Glory of God. To order please use the flower sheet in the library or call the church office, 469-4877 to sign up. Please be sure to indicate your name, phone number, name of person(s) you are honoring with the gift of flowers, number, color and type of flowers. Please also indicate if your order is given as a Thank Offering, In Loving Memory of, In Honor Of or to the Glory of God. Please make checks payable to: The Margaret Emody Flower Fund. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY SUNDAY, March 9th.**

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be received on March 16<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. This is an offering that helps The Presbyterian Church USA in Disaster Assistance. An envelope for One Great Hour of Sharing will be available in the bulletin. Please make checks payable to: The First Presbyterian Church and be sure to indicate that your offering is for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## **WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS**

We had a wonderful time at our Valentine's meeting last month. Marsha Seymour provided stickers, old cards, ribbon, magic markers, etc., that enabled us to be very creative. She vows that each year the cards we make are more professional than last years. I'm sure the recipients of the homemade cards enjoyed receiving them as much as we did making them. We visited Dorothy Gratz and she proudly showed us hers. Set the Tuesday at the end of January aside for next year as it is a time of fun, fellowship and good food.

We also had news of our missionaries from Mexico that we had visit us last summer. They sent greetings to all the members and friends of the church and pictures of the two children that have grown so much since we saw them. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11th at 1 o'clock in the church library. It will be our Easter Program led by Maggie Johnson. It is sure to be inspirational, informative and interesting. Marsha will lead the devotions and Ingeborg Lange will provide the refreshments. We do hope that all the women that are available will join us as we worship, learn and enjoy one another's company. Come and bring a friend or two.

### News from the Deacons

**The Easter Food Pantry Distribution will be held on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Please note this change in time from our usual monthly distribution date and time.**

### **Youth Group News**

#### **Souper Bowl of Caring Soup and Chili Sale results:**

With your prayerful support the youth group was able to raise \$592.00. As of February 19<sup>th</sup>, this nation wide event was able to raise over \$7,442,151.00 with 12, 918 groups participating. Groups raising funds are asked to report how much they raised for their local food bank, soup kitchen and etc. The youth group has donated \$592.00 to our food bank. When you see one of our youth group members, please thank them for their efforts.

**Thank You** one and all who participated in the Youth Group's Fund Raiser of The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. With your help, they were able to raise \$236.07. Thank you again for supporting and helping our youth group.

**Pastor Karen Green** will be away on vacation March 23<sup>rd</sup> pm- March 31<sup>st</sup>. She will return to the church office on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Bob Hoag at 692-4017.

### **WORSHIP SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CASE OF INCLAMENT WEATHER**

If our area is experiencing inclement weather or other emergencies, we may need to postpone or cancel services. Please tune your radio to one of the following stations:

**WHUD 100.7 FM or [www.whud.com](http://www.whud.com)**

**WGNY Hits 103.1 FM or <http://www.wgny.us>**

**WGNY Oldies 1220 AM**

We do sincerely hope that we will not need to use this service. However, we appreciate your cooperation in case the need arises.

## ROAST BEEF DINNER REMINDERS

**Next dinner: Saturday, March 15, 4:00pm - 7:00pm.**

For Tickets, volunteering to work in the dining room or kitchen, or for any other questions you have concerning the dinner, please speak to Marsha Seymour (469-4311).

Applesauce cake bakers needed for the dessert, please call Rosemary Eckard (469-6425). We will provide a church pan and new recipe on Sunday, March 9.

Women's Council would appreciate any home-made goodies you could provide for their Bake Table at the dinner.

### List of Dates & Activities:

**Mar. 8, 9:00am** - Kitchen/Dining Room Clean-up; please speak to Jerry Sutherland (469-4166 or 469-4311) if you are able to help.

**Mar. 13, 9:00am** - Coleslaw preparation; please speak to Carol Ravert (469-2997).

**Mar. 14, 9:00am** -Preparation potatoes & dining room set-up; Please speak to Joan Ribando (469-4208).

**Mar. 15, 3:30pm** - Servers & kitchen help arrive for last minute instructions and prayer. Please speak to Marsha Seymour (469-4311) to volunteer.

It takes the whole "Church Family" and some "helpful neighbors" from the community to make our dinners enjoyable and successful. Thank you for supporting our church in this way. It is truly appreciated and wouldn't be possible without your participation.

Dinner Co-Chairpersons: Marsha Seymour & Jerry Sutherland

## 2008 Team Chairs and Co- Chairs

### Ministering to the People

**Church Family:** Jerry Sutherland (469-4166)

Meets monthly on the First Tuesday at 7:30

Other Teams of ministry within the Church Family Team:

**The Worship Team** (meets as needed)

**Worship Correspondence Team** (meets as needed)

**Extended Family:** Sara Green (469-2975)

Meets as needed & beginning to find regular meeting time

Other Teams of ministry within the Extended Family Team:

**New Membership** (meets monthly on the First Thursday at 7:30 p.m.)

**Shrove Tuesday Team** (meets as needed)

**Blood Drive Team** (meets as needed)

### Caring for God's House

**Buildings Grounds:** Okey Barrett (651-4707)

Jerry Sutherland (469-4166)

Meets as needed

**Administration & Finance:** Janet Writer (469-2578)

**Administration Team:** (meets as needed)

**Finance Team:** (meets monthly on the first Thursday at 7:00 p.m.)

Other Teams of ministry within the Fianance Team such as:

**Half Chicken Sale Team** (meets as needed)

We are always looking for our brothers and sisters in Christ to help us serve the Lord. Want to join a team in our church? Please contact the team chair/co-chair. We look forward to working with you in the Lord's ministry!

**Organist/Music Director:** Maggie Johnson (469-4268)

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Barbara Babcock  
(469-4117)

**Treasurer:** John Ravert (469-1801)

**Assistant Treasurer:** Marsha Seymour (469-4311)

**Sexton:** Betty Lutjens (468-2524)

**Pastor:** Karen N. Green (469-4877)

**Clerk of Session:** Scott Vogt (469-3068)

**Moderator of Deacons:** James Peterson  
( 610-3670, cell 325-1829)

**Church Office:** (469-4877)

**Secretary:**