



# St. Peter's Press

**St. Peter's Presbyterian Church**

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**MARCH 2022**

## Greeting from my Couch - Sandy Fischer

Greetings St. Peter's Family,

I have taken it upon myself (and with Larry's help! – he doesn't stand a chance when I'm around) to change out the big, beautiful banners hanging on either side of the pulpit. Larry and I have had many discussions as to what to hang when and have searched for some guide to give us a clue (we haven't found one). But we are doing our best and are currently displaying the Presbyterian USA and Confession of 1967 banners. Not knowing much of the history of these banners, I have had the most wonderful time sleuthing through the church and talking with many of the congregation to figure it all out. I found a binder made by Carol Pinkowski that showcases each banner along with a description of what each means. These are the pages I have been scanning and including in the weekly email blast and here in this newsletter. And then I started calling people:

**Marion Kern** – she remembers making them in the basement of the church alongside other women in the Women's Guild. She said she had a wonderful time and would like to make more!

**Lori Weaver** – remembers her Gram, Betty Dallas, saying she couldn't forget her grandmother's thimble as she went off to work on them.

**Morgan Deane** – remembers her dad talking of making one of the banners.

**Doris Jean Stalker** – she remembers Rev. Don Mairs bringing all the patterns and organizing the whole event – although she never lifted a needle.

**Emma Jensen** – she remembers working on many of them. She said Rev. Mairs came to the Women's Guild, with the patterns, and asked the women to make them. Helen Rivenberg and Dorrie Kern bought the material and all the members made them. She said Phillip Patterson made the Presbytery USA one all on his own.

I continued digging and found the bulletin for the dedication of the banners which took place on March 30, 2008. The bulletin included the presentation of each banner, a response of

praise, a confession's historical setting and banner's symbol, and an accompanying hymn or anthem.

Currently hanging in the sanctuary are the Confession of 1967 and the Presbyterian USA banners. From the 2008 bulletin:

### **The Confession of 1967 Banner**

(Leader) Men and Women shall declare your mighty acts with awe and tell of your great deeds.

(People) They shall recite the story of your mighty acts and sing of your righteousness with joy.

Hymn: "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

### **The Presbyterian USA Banner**

(Leader) In all His promises the Lord keeps faith.

(People) The eyes of all are lifted to You in hope.

Prayer: We rejoice, O God of the Church, in the faithful witness of the holy Spirit through all generations and in the faith of our fathers. Grant that the life of our congregation may be enriched and empowered for service by these confessions of faith. We believe? Help our belief? Amen.

Hymn "At the Name of Jesus"

Also included in the bulletin was the following:

*We are a congregation and a denomination – part of the Reformed Tradition – with a proud history. On this Sunday we celebrate our reformed history with the Service of the Banners.*

*The Banner Service was created in the First Presbyterian Church of Port Jervis, NY, by the Rev. Avery and Donald Marsh. The service was first presented to the 1968 General Assembly. We have adapted it to include in our history since then.*

*The banners, finials, stands were made by members of our congregations. We extend our thanks to all those who helped: Betty Dallas, Carol French, Marion Goodrich, Emma Jensen, Evie Keefner, June Keller, Cloud Kennedy, Dorrie Kern, Marian Kern, Phillip Patterson, Helen Rivenberg, Doris Jean Stalker; thanks also to Kurt Barensfeld who made the banner stands and Matt Stalker who made the finials.*

*Banner Carriers: Adam Brown, Ryan Davis, and Gabe Franck.*

In digging through some boxes, I came across some pictures of those dedicated men and women who put their love and talents into each of those banners; many of whom are no longer with us on this earthly plane.

So, as we gaze upon these banners throughout the year, lift up a prayer of gratitude for the hands that so lovingly made them. Rejoice in the living history that they have created for our church community. And let us all work together to add to the rich and meaningful life that is St. Peter's.

Blessings,  
Sandy Fischer



## For Your Calendar

- Deacons Meeting on Wed., March 2, at 5 PM at Mary Anne Davis's home.

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- *Lent is a journey, not a destination.  
Join us this Lent.*



### Ecumenical Lenten Services 2022 at 7 pm

<i>Date</i>	<i>Host Church</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
<b>Tues., March 15</b>	<b>St. James Catholic Church Rt.203 &amp; Rt. 66, Chatham</b>	<b>Pastor Gloria Jimpson, Payne AME Church</b>
<b>Wed., March 23</b>	<b>Ghent Reformed Church 1039 Co Rt. 22, Ghent, NY 12075</b>	<b>Father Steve Matthews, St. James Catholic Ch.</b>
<b>Wed., March 30</b>	<b>Chatham United Methodist Ch. 13 Kinderhook Street., Chatham (Red Brick Church)</b>	<b>Pastor Bonnie Pflgel, Reformed Church, Ghent</b>
<b>Wed., April 6</b>	<b>1st Reformed Church of Chatham 23 Kinderhook St., Chatham (Gray Brick Church)</b>	<b>Pastor Carl Franson Chatham United Meth.</b>

*On the side of precaution for everyone's health, no food will be served during this Lenten Season.*

## “Hate Has No Home Here”

In response to increased signs, symbols, and presence of hate groups in our area, the Council voted to display a “Hate Has No Home Here” sign. The initiative for these signs, which feature a heart with our flag’s stars and stripes, started in the Village of Chatham, where dozens of shops and local businesses are displaying the signs in their front windows to show support for unity and love.



A local Chatham project, The Hate Watch Report, (<https://www.hatewatchreport.com/>), has been documenting the increased presence of hate groups. Several local and regional newspapers and TV news have covered it also. First, stickers appeared on park benches, parking meters, utility poles, and road signs in Chatham Village, Hudson, and Stockport. Then a video of a “meet-up” in North Greenbush. Then, on January 14, a small group holding a white supremacy banner at the Village square in Chatham. On February 11, a dozen WLM\_NEW\_YORK extremists on the Village Green in Woodstock. Here is a link to an article in the Albany Times-Union about the Woodstock rally and the response of the Woodstock Reformed Church, which owns the land where the rally occurred and did NOT give permission for the demonstration. <https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/news/article/White-Lives-Matter-rally-Woodstock-raises-concerns-16918415.php?IPID=Times-Union-HP-latest-news>

Teresa Barendsfeld, on behalf of the Council



## Clerk of Council Report

I have an assortment of news to report to our St. Peter's family -- some of it, quite literally, housekeeping – and all of it is good.

Council voted to allow coffee hour after church on Sundays. The Deacons, led by Kathy Geddie and Jennifer Thompson, will, as usual, coordinate the refreshments. Contact Kathy if you're willing to help. Effective March 6, masks will be optional during services. Council revisits masking policy every month, and we will reinstate masking if pandemic conditions require it.

Have you noticed activity at the manse? Elder Barbara Conkling found tenants – the daughter and son-in-law of David and Linda Bolluyt, longtime St. Peter's members. The manse is rented until April 1, with a possibility for extension.

We've had the elevator serviced and signed a five-year service contract to keep it in good running order. Thanks to Elder Larry Massimo for organizing the service. *Please note that the elevator cannot be used outside of hours when no services or events are scheduled.* If you need to use it – to move stuff to or from the basement, for example – please get in touch with Larry.

Elder David Pearce located and contracted with a local cleaning service to clean the church biweekly and to wipe down surfaces, hymnals and pew Bibles in the sanctuary once weekly after services.

When St. Peter's will have a pastor? You might have heard that the church in Valatie has hired a half-time supply pastor. They're farther along in this process than we are because they had plenty of notice that Kathi Jones planned to retire in September. No one is more eager than I am to pass the work of filling the pulpit every Sunday! Please be patient and pray that God gives us the wisdom to do this work well.

Don't forget our upcoming Lenten study, held jointly with First Presbyterian Hudson and First Presbyterian Valatie. We are using the book *A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons from the Garden to the Table*. Please contact Mary Anne Davis, [mad.maryanne@gmail.com](mailto:mad.maryanne@gmail.com) or 518-821-5769, for details.

Remember, any time you have questions, ideas, or concerns for Council, or about church administrative stuff (how do I reserve the church for a wedding, for example), send me an email ([nancy.ordman@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ordman@gmail.com)). This is part of my job as Clerk.

Thanks to each of you for your support and your prayers.

Peace,

Nancy Ordman



**Coffee Hour/Fellowship**  
**resumes March 6 in the basement.**  
**The elevator is working. Come on down!**

**(Note: Don't use the elevator unless others are present.)**



### **Heating Assistance**

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes. <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>

If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year and could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off.

Questions regarding the HEAP program should be directed to your [HEAP Local District Contact](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/contacts/). (<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/contacts/>)



**Time to order Easter Plants  
For the Sanctuary**

Here is the order form for this year's plants.

Mitzi Lobdell will again be faithfully taking orders for Easter plants to adorn the sanctuary.

**Please make checks payable to Mitzi Lobdell.**

Orders need to be in by **Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**. This year's offering is as follows:

<u>Type of Plant</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Number Ordered</u>
<i>(Please circle desired plant)</i>		
6" Reiger Begonias	\$10.75 each	_____
6" Hyacinths	\$7.00 each	_____
6" Tulips	\$7.00 each	_____
6" Azaleas	\$10.00 each	_____

Contributor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

(or)

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Plants may be taken after the Easter Service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up plant.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please give the plant to someone sick or to a shut-in.

## Women Unabridged Book Group

We changed the book schedule a bit: March meeting will continue the discussion of the book *Caste*, led by Denise Davis. We'll also be viewing a video of Mary Anne Davis's sermon on allyship, which she gave on Sunday, Feb. 20.

We welcome any woman in the church and friends! We usually meet the third Monday of the month and are currently meeting via Zoom. For questions or information on how to join the Zoom call, please contact Teresa Barenfeld at (518)755-3273 or [tbarenfeld@gmail.com](mailto:tbarenfeld@gmail.com). Our books for the upcoming months:

**March 21:** Continued discussion of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*, by Isabel Wilkerson

**April 18:** *New Women of the Old West*, by Winifred Gallagher

**May 16:** *Too Much Happiness* (short stories), by Alice Munro

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***Happy Birthday!!!***

<b>Paul Greene</b>	<b>3/2</b>
<b>Meredith Hansen</b>	<b>3/2</b>
<b>Ermengarde Culley</b>	<b>3/3</b>
<b>Grace Ann Silvernale</b>	<b>3/3</b>
<b>Stephen Brown</b>	<b>3/7</b>
<b>Joel Dyslin</b>	<b>3/9</b>
<b>Wendy Diskin</b>	<b>3/11</b>
<b>Luke Olivieri</b>	<b>3/12</b>
<b>Dylan Davey</b>	<b>3/16</b>
<b>Jere Wrightsman</b>	<b>3/16</b>
<b>Jennifer Lippert</b>	<b>3/16</b>
<b>Paul Pitman</b>	<b>3/17</b>
<b>Connelly Cashen</b>	<b>3/20</b>
<b>George Wenk</b>	<b>3/26</b>
<b>Carol Taylor</b>	<b>3/27</b>
<b>David Bolluyt</b>	<b>3/29</b>
<b>Jean Brower</b>	<b>3/29</b>



## March Lectionary

### **March 6 First Sunday in Lent**

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10:8b-13
- Luke 4:1-13

### **March 20 Third Sunday in Lent**

- Isaiah 55:1-9
- Psalm 63:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Luke 13:1-9

### **March 13 Second Sunday in Lent**

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philippians 3:17-4:1
- Luke 13:31-35

### **March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

- Joshua 5:9-12
- Psalm 32
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

