



# *St. Peter's Press*

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church - Spencertown, NY  
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**April 2022**

## **Clerk of Council Report**

First, let's celebrate our new Church Secretary – Kathy Geddie! Kathy recently started her new role and is actively learning how to manage the tasks required of her. Our former secretary Shelley left a detailed notebook, and Sandy Fischer is training Kathy as needed. Please thank Kathy for taking on this critical role.

I don't know that there is any way to thank Sandy adequately for six months' service preparing the bulletin every week and taking care of so much more than just typing up the content. Sandy, if we could send you on a long vacation in a warm place, we'd do it! Please accept the deep gratitude all of us have for your contributions, not just as part-time secretary but for your consistent help wherever the congregation needs you.

This month I can share with you the news that Council approved inviting Rev. Donna Elia to fill our pulpit from April through the end of May. Donna was already on the schedule for April 3, April 17 and May 1. She will add us to her schedule on May 8, May 15 and May 22. Donna cares about St. Peter's; she has absolute faith in our ability to work through the challenges we face and grow in strength as we do so.

We have also started work with Peggy Smith, our COMAC-designated (COMAC= Presbytery's Committee on Ministers and Congregations) guide who will advise Council as we work with you – our congregation – to decide on our next steps. At our March meeting Peggy explained four options for calling a pastor, ranging from calling a permanent pastor, calling a temporary pastor, to using pulpit supply, as we have done since last October. Understanding what we need in the immediate future, to help us move toward a permanent solution, is critical. Please remember us in prayer as we consider these questions.

What do you do if you, or someone you know, needs pastoral care while we're between pastors? Please tell one of our Deacons or a Council member. We have offers of help from Rev. Kathi Jones, interim Council moderator; Rev. Bill Levering, interim pastor at First Presbyterian Valatie; and, on a limited basis, from Donna Elia.

I'll close with a reminder that the congregation of First Pres Valatie will join us for worship on Palm Sunday, April 10. I'm working with Nancy Pienta to produce a service centered around a dramatic reading that focuses on the Passion of Christ. If you're interested in taking part in this, let me know: [nancy.ordman@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ordman@gmail.com) or 518-781-4136. I'm working more hours now, but I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Thank you, all of you, for your prayers and your ongoing support of Council and for our congregation.

Nancy Ordman  
Clerk of Council



**For Your Calendar!**

April 3 - Palm Sunday.

April 5 - 5:30 pm- Deacons' Meeting at Jennifer Thompson's house

April 10 - Easter Sunday

April 18 - 6:30 via Zoom, Women Book Study,  
New Women of the Old West by Winifred Gallagher,



## **Palm Sunday Service at St. Peter's With First Presbyterian Church in Valatie**



**Join us at St. Peter's at 10 AM on April 10 for a *special Palm Sunday service.***

This will be a combined service with First Presbyterian Church in Valatie, whose congregants will join us at St. Peter's. Let's fill the pews! Palm leaves, supplied by Valatie, will be handed out.

In place of a sermon on Palm Sunday, we will present a dramatic reading based on the lectionary Gospel reading (Luke 22:14-23:56).

This reading covers the events from the institution of the Lord's Supper through the death of Jesus. Speaking parts include Jesus, disciples, criminals, assorted Romans, and the narrator. **We need volunteers to be the readers.**

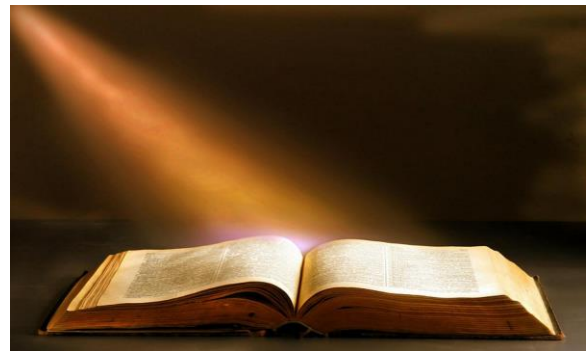
Readers will have a script – no memorization necessary! We'll work with Sandy and the broadcast crew to arrange readers to best advantage for acoustics and sightlines.

**Interested?** Please contact Nancy Ordman at [nancy.ordman@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ordman@gmail.com) or 518-781-4136. Thanks!

## April Lectionary Readings

### April 3 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

- **First Reading** Isaiah 43:16-21
- **Psalm** 126
- **Second Reading** Philippians 3:4b-14
- **Gospel** John 12:1-8



### April 10 - Palm Sunday

- **Liturgy of the Palms** Luke 19:28-40
- **Psalm** 118:1-2, 19-29
- **Liturgy of the Passion** Isaiah 50:4-9a
- **Psalm** 31:9-16
- **Second Reading** Philippians 2:5-11
- **Gospel** Luke 22:14-23:56
- **Gospel (Alternate)** Luke 23:1-49 (Alternate)

### April 17 - EASTER SUNDAY

- **First Reading** Acts 10:34-43
- **Or alternate First Reading** Isaiah 65:17-25
- **Psalm** 118:1-2, 14-24
- **Second Reading 1** Corinthians 15:19-26
- **Or alternate Second Reading** Acts 10:34-43
- **Gospel** John 20:1-18
- **Or alternate Gospel** Luke 24:1-12

- **Easter Evening Readings:**
- **First Reading** Isaiah 25:6-9
- **Psalm** 114:1-8
- **Second Reading 1** Corinthians 5:6b-8
- **Gospel** Luke 24:13-49
- **First Reading** Acts 5:27-32
- **Psalm** 118:14-29
- **Second Reading** Revelation 1:4-8
- **Gospel** John 20:19-31

April 24 - Second Sunday of Easter

### **March 2022 Treasurer's Report**

(Based on Feb. 2022 figures)

Our main operating accounts have a balance of **\$29,611.11** but because of contingent liabilities (money from other accounts such as Men's group, Mission Fund, Memorials and Clara Gott, etc. ), the current funds available to the church are **\$10,404**. We had deposits totaling **\$13,135.67 (including annual 5% of Clara Gott money (\$7820) that will be moved to a separate checking account and is not used for operational expenses)** while expenditures were \$7430.04. In short, we actually spent more than we took in this month in our operational regular account.

Our investment account balances at the end of Feb. are as follows:

Church- \$53,621.77

Clara Gott- \$154, 733.32

Looking forward:

- We currently have a short-term rental of the manse, proceeds of which are being kept in a separate account.
- Most of the prepaid fuel oil has been used for the church, and we will be paying market price going forward, which as most of us know is quite high in terms of price.
- Despite searching for a cheaper insurance policy, we were unable to get one, so our insurance increased significantly due to costs of repairs and

replacement if ever needed.

- We do anticipate receiving money from the Friends of St. Peter's, who are generously sharing proceeds of the 250th Anniversary celebration held last year.
- We now have a new secretary on payroll and are paying someone to do the newsletter temporarily until the secretary can take that over.

Wendy Diskin and Jeff Kilinger



*Happy Birthday to Our Birthday People!!*

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

*Kay Everding 4/5*

*Joseph Cozzolino 4/12*

*Anjelica Milin 4/12*

*Marian Kern 4/14*

*Mary Anne Davis 4/21*

*Maria Crespo Pitman 4/25*

*Chris Cashen 4/28*



**Food Pantry Contributions**



St. Peter's is resuming collecting contributions for the Chatham and Ghent Food Pantries during the church service. Please bring canned goods, nonperishable items, sanitary supplies, etc., with you to church. They will be collected during the choir's singing of the anthem, as we have done in the past.

### ***A Prayer for Ukraine***

*By Rev. Emily Brewer, Executive Director of Presbyterian Peace Fellowship*

God, we sigh. We sigh because words cannot express our anguish, our hurt, our despair, knowing that siblings in Ukraine are fleeing their homes for their lives, that the cities and towns that hold memories and culture and history may be destroyed.

Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans that the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And so we sigh. Let us breathe together.

May our sighs remind us that we all share the same air;

that what impacts one of us impacts all of us;

that life is precious to God and war is never necessary.

May our sighs be a prayer for every Ukrainian who worries about surviving today;

for those who will not survive this invasion;

for those who will survive and be forever changed by the trauma of war;

for those Russian soldiers who question their orders and refuse to use their weapons.

May our sighs be a prayer for nuclear de-proliferation;

for an end to the sin of imperialism and colonization.

May our sighs be a prayer for truth, peace, and solidarity to guide each of us;

May our sighs be a prayer for Ukraine and the whole world.

May our sighs fill our bodies with air to breathe through grief and fear and fill us with courage and connection, so that we are ready to act in solidarity with Ukraine,

for an end to this war and all war.



### **St. Peter's Mission to Provide Support to USCRI**

**Most Afghan evacuees fleeing the Taliban have waited in U.S. military bases for months to see their new homes.**

**USCRI Albany is welcoming new families to the Capital Region every day and they need your help now more than ever.**



St. Peter's is collecting donations for the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) in Albany. USCRI's goals are to meet the many urgent needs of new arrivals, including assisting refugees in finding and furnishing housing, obtaining employment, achieving self-sufficiency, and nurturing community integration. In collaboration with State and local partners, USCRI Albany works toward these goals by providing case management, employment

assistance, Family Support Services, and English Language Training. It also helps refugees to file Adjustment of Status ("Green Card") applications and Naturalization applications, as well as providing other legal services.

Currently, the agency needs cleaning supplies, cleaning tools, bathroom brushes, and other such supplies. We will keep in touch with USCRI to keep the list of needed items up to date. Monetary contributions are also welcome.



There is a box next to the right-hand sanctuary door to leave your contributions. Sharon Wing and Kathy Geddie will take the contributions to the USCRI office.

