



First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca

315 N. Cayuga Street • Ithaca, NY, 14850 • 607-272-2800 • Rev. Kirianne Weaver Riehl, Senior Pastor • Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver, Pastoral Supply

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First Presbyterian Church Phone: 607-272-2800 • Fax: 607-272-2813 •

Email: office@firstpresithaca.org • Website: www.firstpresithaca.org

Rev. Kirianne Weaver Riehl: kirianne@firstpresithaca.org

Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver, Ph.D.: cynthia@firstpresithaca.org

Suzanne Scholten, Director of Christian Education: suzanne@firstpresithaca.org

Worship Schedule for February 2019:

Sunday, February 3: Communion Sunday, and the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany.

Scripture: Psalm 76: 1-6 and Luke 4: 21-30.

Message: "...do unto *Others*."

Sunday, February 10: Commissioning, and the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 6: 1-13

Message: "Now that this has Touched Your Lips."

We commission trips: Living Waters of the World to Kenya, and the Seminar on Wheels.

Sunday, February 17:

Scripture: I Corinthians 15: 12-20

Message: "The Unbelievability of Belief"

Sunday, February 24: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Genesis 45: 3-11, 15.

Message: "Joseph Forgives His Brothers."

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Wednesday, March 6:

ASH WEDNESDAY.

Service at 7pm.

Lent is drawing near: a time of preparation for the coming of Easter—when, in order that forgiving joy may come again, we acknowledge that we must first accept the barrenness of winter and the darkness and bleakness of our world.

Dear friends,

We aren't called, as Christians, to do what everyone else is doing all the time. Our lives are meant to be different, though modern Christians perhaps generally underwhelm in that respect—for instance, we had someone ask why we don't just make the Seminar on Wheels a secular trip. When we answered that this is a Christian educational mission, they asked: "What's the difference?"

When Sunday, January 20, 2019 came along, programs, community centers and churches too were announcing their closure. I was asked several times if we would close too. "The church never knows," I answered, "when someone needs us. Hospitals aren't closed, and we won't be either." (We always want you to stay safe first: don't come, no matter what role you have, if you aren't sure it's a good idea.)

So we were open. I wasn't sure if we would see three people or thirteen, but each new arrival was a wonderful surprise, especially when they came on cross-country skis, and at our final count we numbered twenty-six including the Mayor!

We diverged from our bulletin. At the Passing of the Peace, each person gave their name and we welcomed one another. At the time of the message, not knowing what Rev. Paris Price of St. James AME Zion would have said, we talked about the passage and shared our thoughts. The passage was perfect for the day, from Ephesians 2:

"For [Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one, and has broken

What's Inside:

- **Photos of M.L.K. Jr. Day**
- **Adult Education for February**
- **Men's Breakfast. February 1st**
- **Flowers for Spring and Summer**
- **Winter Weather Policy**
- **A Word from Cindy**
- **Worship Schedule for February**

down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us."

We felt it, gathered around the chancel, this motley, scarf-wrapped, booted and snow-dusted bunch. There were no hostilities: we had fought the weather together, braved nature, and overcome. A bond had been forged.

Is this how the shepherds and magi felt as they gathered about the stable? Is this how the disciples felt, when they were first gathered at the mountain, named a group by Jesus? Did they look around at one another and marvel at how different they were, one from another? We walked to the statue of Martin Luther King, Jr., and asked that we be forgiven, and asked God to help us make right the wrongs of the past, so that the dividing wall of hostility could be broken down with justice.

As the snow deepened, we pressed it into the words of the statue, so they would stand out brightly against the dark stone: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

Adult Education Schedule

Adult Education Schedule for February

February 3: "Young Adults: Coming of Age in the 21st Century." John Yao will lead a panel discussion on life in the new workplace, as well as what motivates young adults to come to church. After panelists have made their presentations and discussed among themselves, there will be opportunity for questions from the audience.

February 10: "A Christian Confronts the Threat of Nuclear War" - Ithacan Clare Grady was one of the seven Plowshares activists who took part in non-violent "sacramental action" at the Kings Bay Trident Submarine Base on the coast of Georgia on April 4, 2018. They were arrested after entering the naval base and pouring their blood on a bunker housing nuclear weapons. Clare and her co-defendants are charged with three federal felonies and a misdemeanor. If found guilty, they face up to 25 years in prison. They argue they are conscientious objectors, acting upon their deeply held religious convictions, and have asked that the charges be dismissed. The trial is expected to be held in February or March in Brunswick, GA.

February 17: Professor Margaret Washington, author of *Sojourner Truth's America*, will speak on Sojourner Truth, who has been called one of the most charismatic and influential characters in 19th century America. Dr. Washington is a Cornell professor of history and American Studies.

February 24: To be announced.

Photos of Jan 20: MLK Jr. Day



Announcements and Reminders

Birthdays in February



- 5 – Scott Anderson
- 7 – Shiloh Riehl
- 12 – David Lincoln Call
- 14 – Laura Mead
- 14 – Rosemary Mead
- 14 – Imogene Sybert
- 14 – Dix Wayman
- 24 – Laura Britton
- 28 – Suzy Courtney

Looking for a Historian!

The wonderful Susan Nixon moved away, and now we are looking for a new Church Historian! If you enjoy genealogy and archives, please call us!

Flowers for Spring and Summer



As we reach mid-winter, the Deacons are looking for people to sign up for Sunday flowers. The cost is \$35 for the two bouquets. You may choose specific colors or the kinds of flowers. After church, you can choose to take the flowers home, or let the Deacons take them to someone in need of a little cheer. To donate, please contact our flower coordinator, Stella Martz, at 717-476-1952 or stellamartz@gmail.com

Like Us on Facebook!



We are "First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca NY." We post pictures, reflections, and announcements. Stop by!

What about Winter Weather?

What do you do when winter weather comes on a Sunday morning? Do what is *safe*.

We will always be here at 10am Sunday to worship, and wherever two or three are gathered God is among us. We ask, please, that if you do not feel safe coming to church due to the weather, you will protect yourself and stay home. If you are in the choir, we will still survive. If you are the liturgist, we will still survive. We will miss you, but we love you and want you healthy and warm.

Make your decision on your situation—and if you choose to come, you will find us here.



On weekdays and for other activities, we will follow the ICSD calendar. If there is no school, the office and other activities (Bible Study, small groups) will also be closed or cancelled. Stay safe!

Cares & Concerns



In the Hospital? LET US KNOW!

Call the church (272-2800) or office@firstpresithaca.org.

We hold in our constant prayer:

Alice Kelly; Libby Patton; Martha Mapes; Don Scott; Connie Scott; Tom Scott; and John Shortle.



We pray for our world, including:

people affected by the government shutdown, including those who will not receive working food stamps.

A Word from Cindy



Sometimes, as I first sit to write this column for the Good News, I struggle to find a good topic, and once I find a topic, the struggle shifts to keeping my focus on that topic.

Distractions abound, and daydreaming comes easily to me. This time I found a distraction long before I found a topic.

Although I sit to write with my back to the big windows in the house, there are many others letting in glimpses of what is happening outside, and this past weekend it was the weather that was drawing my attention away from the blank page in front of me. I kept glancing at the falling snow wondering how much we were getting, how long it would take me to shovel, and would I be able to get to church. Whenever I would manage to return my focus to this piece, a snow plow would pass by, and its sound would remind me of what was happening. I would have to get up and take a look outside where the blanket of white made it possible to see in the dark.

As time passed and the page remained as white as the world outside, I began thinking about shoveling the driveway and decided it would be best to tackle it several times. After a few inches would fall, I would shovel. This was light snow, and three or four inches of it at a time would be easy to manage.

It was dark when I went out for my first round of shoveling, but the snow's beauty was stunning. To be a part of the scene as God was painting it was joyful. The shoveling, as I expected, was quite easy, but I worried there might be too much later on for me to keep up with it. That's when I remembered that my friend Bob had added me to his already-too-long-list of driveways he plows in heavy snows just because he worries about me. I kept shoveling at a relaxed pace, but in my warm winter coat and hat and gloves I was working up a sweat and wondered if I would want something hot or cold to drink when I went inside.

I continued to shovel barely aware of the gratitude I was feeling for the beauty of God's creation, for snow plows that keep the roads clear, for caring friends, for warm winter clothes, for a house that keeps the cold and wind out and the heat in, for a body still able to shovel, and for the luxury of choosing between a hot or cold drink. Finally I was done. The driveway was shoveled – mission accomplished – now if only I could find a topic for my Good News column.

With joy,
Cindy

Deacons Corner



Fellowship

Men's Breakfast, February 1st

The first 2019 Presbyterian Men's Breakfast will take place on Friday February 1. The event will start at 8:00 a.m. and will adjourn about 8:45. We meet at Kendal . The delicious breakfast is \$4.95. Our guest will be Andrew Zepp, who is Executive Director of The Finger Lakes Land Trust. We especially invite young men and new participants in the church to join the group, and bring a friend if you wish.

Young Adult Group Off to a Good 2019!



The Young Adult Group started off 2019 in a good way with a gathering on Jan 19 at the apartment of John Yao and Hector Chang. Despite the threat of the oncoming blizzard, several folks braved the cold and snow for hot pot and warm company. The group has existed at First Pres for some time, but over the previous few years its numbers have waned due to folks moving on to new jobs and opportunities. Since this past Summer and Fall, however, the group has found a new growth, with gatherings each month at the homes of William and Angie Chen, Elmer and Marilyn Ewing, Suzanne Scholten and Joe Tonzola, and Awura-Abena Ansah. The group looks forward to its next gathering at the home of Susan and Fred Van Sickle on Feb. 16.

Mission

Join the mission work trip which will help coastal North Carolinians to move back into their homes damaged by Hurricane Florence. Dates: March 17 – 23.

Rebuild homes in New Bern that are ready for construction so people who need help can move back into a safe environment.

Our work partners will be Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders, a 501(c)(3) Christian organization dedicated to serving the victims of major disasters in the United States. They were organized in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and have supported rebuilding in all the major hurricanes since then. Our homeowners must be uninsured (no flood insurance) and low-income. They use volunteer labor to make the rebuilding effort more affordable. They are financed from donations and grants.

The registration fee for accommodations is \$100/week per individual; this includes room and board for the week. They plan for teams to arrive on Sunday and depart on Saturday. We will be rebuilding the interior of homes that were flooded. They have tools but ask teams to bring what they might have if they can do so.

Total trip expenses are estimated to be \$250 and we will travel as a group from Ithaca. Gail Farnham is our contact person with the site managers in New Bern and work assignments will keep us busy for a full 5 days.

Contact Suzy Courtney (mscourtney228@gmail.com) or 607(209-4151) for more information and to signal your commitment to join a group dedicated to help the flood victims.

FEBRUARY 2019

First Presbyterian Church * 315 N Cayuga St, Ithaca, NY 14850 * (607) 272-2800 * www.firstpresithaca.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday 9am—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10am—Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30am—K-4 Sunday School 11am—Fellowship Time (Narthex) 11:15am—Youth Choir (Choir Room) 11:20am—Adult Ed (Dodds Hall)	4 3pm—Communion Service (Kendal)	5 10am—Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office) 5:30pm—Church Playgroup (contact Kirianne for location!) 6:30pm—Tai Chi (Narthex)	6 2pm—Communion Service (Longview)	7 6:30pm—Community Game Night (Dodds Hall) 7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	8	9
10 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9am—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10am—Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30am—K-4 Sunday School 11am—Fellowship Time (Narthex) 11:15am—Youth Choir (Choir Room) 11:20am—Adult Ed (Dodds Hall)	11 5pm—Worship, Music, & Spiritual Life Meeting (Heritage Room)	12 5:30pm—Church Playgroup (contact Kirianne for location!) 6:30pm—Tai Chi (Narthex) 7:45pm—Adult Ed Meeting (Heritage Room)	13 5:15pm—Personnel Committee Meeting (Fireside Room)	14 8:15am—B&P Meeting (Heritage Room) 6:30pm—Community Game Night (Dodds Hall) 7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	15 12pm—Good News Submission Deadline (via e-mail)	16
17 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9am—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10am—Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30am—K-4 Sunday School 11am—Fellowship Time (Narthex) 11:15am—Youth Choir (Choir Room) 11:20am—Adult Ed (Dodds Hall)	18	19 10am—Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office) 5:30pm—Church Playgroup (contact Kirianne for location!) 6:30pm—Tai Chi (Narthex)	20 12pm—Session Materials Due (via e-mail) 7pm—Finance Committee (Heritage Room)	21 6:30pm—Community Game Night (Dodds Hall) 7:30pm—JPIC Meeting (Heritage Room) 7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	22	23
24 7th Sunday after Epiphany 9am—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10am—Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30am—K-4 Sunday School 11am—Fellowship Time (Narthex) 11:15am—Youth Choir (Choir Room) 11:20am—Adult Ed (Dodds Hall)	25 7pm—Session Meeting (Dodds Hall)	26 5:30pm—Church Playgroup (contact Kirianne for location!) 6:30pm—Tai Chi (Narthex)	27	28 6:30pm—Community Game Night (Dodds Hall) 7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)		