

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, April 27, 2023

THIS SATURDAY FOR EVERYONE GRADES 4 - 12

Golf anyone? We're all going to gather at the Shipwreck Miniature Golf facility (on 281) for a round of mini-golf followed by snacks. Meet us at 2 PM. You won't need anything except your smile. Friends are welcome – just email Alex to let her know who is coming.

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THIS SUNDAY

During 9:30 Faith Formation, grades 1–3 will study the ancient story about Jonah while the 4–7 grades will learn about Elijah. Adults who participate in *Starting Point* may pick up the article “My Grandmother’s Hands” and read it for next week’s discussion.

Our 10:30 worship service promises to be a great celebration. We will welcome three new members to our family of faith. In addition, Reagan Anice McCall will be baptized. Reagan’s parents are Elise & JP McCall. Her grandparents are Kurt & Lori Schmidt. Pastor Vicki will focus on Psalm 23 and Romans 12:9-12. Our Deacons will host a very special coffee hour following the service.

The Spring meeting of the Susquehanna Association meets via Zoom on Sunday at 2 PM. Our delegates are Belinda Burtson and Peter Wright. Pastor Vicki will attend and Rev. Barb Wright has been invited to offer the closing worship.

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Monday Winning Way Investment Club will meet at 7 PM in the Board Room. Interested in learning more about investing in stocks? Winning Way Investment Club (WWIC) is an independent club that meets monthly to learn more about stocks and invest together as a club. All are welcome to attend. Call Becky Jones with questions at 607-753-7870.

Tuesday Faith Formation Committee will meet via zoom at 6:30.

LAST SUNDAY WRAP-UP

We celebrated Earth Day largely through our singing. Set to the tune of “For the Beauty of the Earth”, the lyrics of our first song, *Shades of Purple, Shades of Blue*, were a celebration of God’s creating energy and our own responsibility to be stewards of the earth. Later in the service, Jack Carr, Joe Ford, David Rutherford and Jim Ulrich offered a barbershop version of *For the Beauty of the Earth*.

The scripture for the day described that first “Easter night” when two disciples, who were clearly not a part of the inner circle, traveled the road to Emmaus. A stranger joined them and was invited in at the end of the day. It wasn’t until they sat down to eat that the stranger broke bread and everyone suddenly realized – that’s no stranger...that is Jesus! Pastor Vicki offered multiple examples of moments when our seeing/comprehending took on a deeper dimension, allowing us to recognize Holy Presence.

Our thanks to Don and Jennifer Van Slyke for hosting coffee hour.

WHEN THE PASTOR IS AWAY...

As you know, I will be on sabbatical from May 1 – June 4. I have chosen to focus on preaching and the state of the post-Covid Church. I will experience worship in various settings and attend the Festival of Homiletics where I'll get to hear an array of skilled preachers. I'm targeting a couple of books I've wanted to read including *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine and *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman. I'm looking forward to conversations with some of my mentors in ministry, as well as having the time to contemplate the church and ministry in the midst of generational changes.

While I am away, you have the chance to hear the gifts of several fine preachers:

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| May 7 & 14 | Rev. Barb Wright – a member of this church
Secretary of the NY Conference of the United Church of Christ. |
| May 21 | Rev. Laurel Harte-Westover – a member of our church
Ex. Dir. of the Cortland Interfaith Council |
| May 28 | Rev. Ryan Henderson – New York Conference of the UCC
Associate Conference Minister for Communication |
| June 4 | Rev. Janice Michaels Marsi – one of PV's treasured friends
Retired UMC pastor, now a certified Master Gardener |

Q: What if there is an emergency? A: We have folks available for emergency pastoral care.

Mon. – Thurs. from 9 – 12, call the office for assistance at 607.749.2604.

When our office is closed, please call Lori Schmidt at 607.745-5377.

If you have prayer concerns, please forward them to the office and/or Lori Schmidt. Lori is the Deacon for May, and she will collect and pass on your concerns to each Sunday's clergy. You may also leave your ongoing silent prayers in our Prayer Bowl.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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| 1 | Logan Schmidt |
| 2 | Belinda Burtson, Cindy Stout |
| 3 | Phil Rumsey |
| 4 | Nancy Richards |
| 5 | Deb Pelowski |
| 7 | Bill Masterson |
| 11 | Carol DeShane |
| 16 | Lori Schmidt |
| 20 | Sylvia Hammond |
| 22 | Bill Hopkins |
| 23 | Andrew Leach |
| 24 | Alex & Luke Bertram, Nancy Sandstrom |
| 26 | Mary Reif |