

MARCH 2018

GREEN LEAVES



*Christ
is
Risen!*

Let us be reminded of the reason for the Easter season!
Amongst all the busyness that goes on reflect on Jesus and
His resurrection. Jesus said--- " I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever
believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and
believes in me shall never die"
(John 11:25)

PASTOR'S EPISTLE..... I recall my children kneeling at their beds repeating that old, familiar bedtime prayer, the one you probably learned as a child: *"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake. I pray the Lord my soul to take. And this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen."* They updated the last line some nights to: *"May angels watch me through the night and wake me with the morning light."*

It's a lovely little prayer, just right for a child's bedtime. It asks for the small things that are important to children. After all, when you're young, what could be more important than being kept safe - especially when you don't know for sure what's under the bed or in that dark closet? Even today, that gentle prayer brings a kind of peace to my spirit.

When I wearily fall into bed at night, it's so easy to head back to comfortable, childhood prayers. Certainly there is nothing wrong with them. But maybe now, as my hair all but disappears and definitely grays and the corners of the day go far beyond what might lurk under the bed, I need to do more than rehearse those simple lines.

St. Paul said, *"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways"* (1 Corinthians 3:11). Perhaps Paul is telling us that it's time to move beyond gentle prayers. Maybe now, when terrorists darken our future and the world cries out for hope, pleading for God's people to make a difference - maybe it's the right time for all of us to pray prayers more like this one:

Lord, we come into your presence seeking a gracious blessing. But we dare to ask for an outrageous portion of Your grace. We ask that You not simply equip us, but that You chase us to into Your world.

Make us people of vision who look not in but out, not backward but forward, not down but up, not at what cannot be done but at what might be accomplished by Your Spirit.

Make us those who seek mountains and not valleys, narrow paths instead of wide and easy ways, sending us new places instead of resting places, starts instead of finishes, horizons instead of waysides, tomorrows instead of yesterdays.

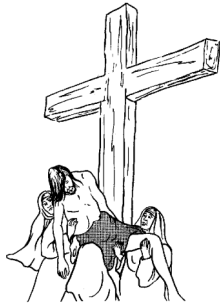
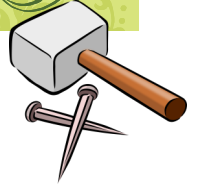
Give us running shoes instead of slippers, alarm clocks instead of sleep switches, accelerators instead of brakes, sailboats instead of sandcastles.

Make us startle even ourselves with the power that You give. For all we do is moved by Your breath, enveloped by Your spirit, filled with the wind of Your grace, and resounding to Your glory and not ours.

"Give us wings to fly like eagles" (Isaiah 40: 31). We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

But then again, perhaps we couldn't want to say a prayer like that. After all, what if God answered with a mighty "YES"? Then where would we be? Would we be ready?

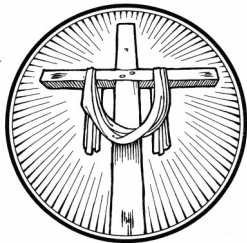
Peace and joy in Christ, Pastor Carl



Good Friday ~ March 30, 2018

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. To many Christians, Good Friday is a day of sorrow mingled with joy. It is a time to grieve over the sin of man and to meditate and rejoice upon God's love in giving His only son for the redemption of sin.

~ Contributed by Trudy Fisher



Easter Sunday April 1, 2018

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It bears witness to God's enduring promise of eternal life. It is a time of hope and reassurance.

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Maundy Thursday Service, Communion & Supper March 29, 2018 at 6 pm

Covered dish supper will follow the service. Please bring a dish to pass. Rolls, beverages and dessert will be provided.

Maundy Thursday is also known as "Holy Thursday".

Two important events are the focus of Maundy Thursday :
First: Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples and thereby instituted the Lord's Supper, also called communion. (Luke 22:19-20)

Second: On his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an act of humility and then gave them a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



One Great Hour Of Sharing February 18 through April 1 (Easter)

This is your opportunity to share your blessings and to show God's love to people around the world.

LET US ANSWER GOD'S CALL...

Communities need hope after devastation
Hunger and Poverty need to be alleviated
Injustice and Oppression needs to be addressed.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Let us pray.....

Dear God,
Thank you for the blessings in our lives.
We do not shiver at night — we have the warmth of blankets.
Our stomachs do not feel hunger — our tables have ample food.
We do not feel oppressed — we live in a community of love and support.

Millions of people in our world do not experience these blessings.
May your monetary gift offer a better tomorrow for those in need.

~ contributed by Trudy Fisher



Scotch Presbyterian Church
has a new website up and
running. As the content is
still being developed and
added, please pass along

your suggestions or ideas for information to include to
Bill and Mindy Fisher.

The address is: greensteeple.org



First Day of Spring
March 20th



The Easter Lily

Would you like to donate a lily to decorate the sanctuary this Easter season? The Worship Committee asks that you please consider giving our sanctuary the renewal of Spring by donating an Easter bloom. If you wish to give in memory of a family member or friend, please provide the name to Mindy Fisher or Trudy Fisher so we can acknowledge your remembrance in the church bulletin.

This beautiful trumpet-shaped white flower symbolizes purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life- the spiritual essence of Easter. It is often called "white-robed apostles of hope". Lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ died on the cross. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by adorning their pulpits with Easter lilies, to signify the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal life. The Easter lily, along with other Easter blooms serves as a beautiful reminder that Easter is a time for rejoicing and celebrating!



Palm Sunday—March 25, 2018

The colors of linen on Palm Sunday are red and white, symbolizing the redemption in blood that Christ paid for the world. On Palm Sunday Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. Palm Sunday, often referred to as "Passion Sunday" marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday.

Jesus traveled to Jerusalem knowing that this journey would end in his sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of all mankind. Before he entered the city, he sent two disciples ahead to the village of Bethphage to look for an unbroken colt. The men brought the colt to Jesus, and placed their cloaks on its back. As Jesus sat on the young donkey he slowly made his humble entrance into Jerusalem. The people greeted Jesus enthusiastically, waving palm branches and covering his path with palm branches. The shouts of "Hosanna" meant "save now" and the palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 19:28-38)

~ Contributed by Trudy Fisher



Repair of our church's organ was discussed at a congregational meeting on March 4th. The Finance Committee had previously met and reviewed the need for the repair and source of funds to pay for the replacement of the organ's two keyboards.

This organ was installed on October 21, 1994, 24 years ago. Within the last year, keys have begun "sticking" when being played. A representative from Rodgers Organ inspected the organ last Fall, and recommended replacing both keyboards due to the condition.

Total cost for the Material, labor, and shipping is \$6,199. After many questions and a thorough discussion, approval of the congregation was obtained. The Finance Committee recommended that the cost of the repair will be paid for using "unrestricted" Memorial funds.

~ Info provided by Bill Fisher

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

We celebrate your special day !

HAPPY "March" BIRTHDAY to...

6 Jesse Hargrave
7 Daniel Dominy
8 Paul Josephson
10..... Nicholas Beldock
15..... Jordan Morgan
17..... Bill Fisher
20.... Brandon Acres
22.... Cassandra McKnight
23 Jessica Avery
25.... Shirley Perkins
25..... Katlyn Dominy
28..... Ryan McKnight



HAPPY "March" ANNIVERSARY to...

25..... Jim & Sandy Wright
31..... Jerry & Betty Crump
62 YEARS OF LOVE!



EARLY NOTICE ! APRIL CELEBRATIONS

We celebrate your special day !

HAPPY "April" BIRTHDAY to...

2 Barbara Fisher
5 Marion Acres
6..... Natalie McKnight
7 Noel Allen
7..... Devin Sharlow
13 ... Alison Appleby
18 ... Jennifer Appleby
20..... Betty Crump
25..... Marcie Barney
27.... Roger Thompson
28 Robert Crump

HAPPY "April" ANNIVERSARY

**There are no anniversaries
listed for the month of April.**

Email your dates to me to be added to the calendar so that we can recognize your family's special days. Or if you have a family member you'd like included.....

~ Mindy Fisher

Or email me at fisher@potssdam.edu

Chipman Crew will shortly be sending out a gift certificate to 17 college students....**If you have not already done so, please update your college student's mailing address.....** Please give or send your college student's address to either Lesley (lesley@cpnorthcountry.org) or Mindy (fisher@potssdam.edu)

We want to be sure we have the most recent mailing address as college students do move from year to year!! Chipman Crew will shortly be sending out a gift certificate to college students. We will happy to accept monetary donations to help defray the cost of this mission.

Our students appreciate hearing from home and receiving a reminder that they are in our prayers as they complete these years at college.

Please give your donation to Lesley Thompson or Mindy Fisher if you would like to support this effort. Many thanks from Chipman Crew and Mission Committee





Life of the Church

- Mar 11** Daylight Savings— Clocks spring ahead
- Mar 18** Madrid Volunteer Fire Dept Annual Turkey Dinner at High School, 11 am—2 pm
- Mar 19** Free Will Community dinner at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Waddington, 4:30-6:00 pm
- Mar 25** Palm Sunday—Worship returns to the sanctuary
- Mar 29** Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at , 6 pm, followed by Covered dish dinner
- Mar 30** Good Friday
- April 1** Easter Sunday ~ Communion; NOISY Offering will be collected by the children
- April 5** April Newsletter info due to Mindy.

NOISY OFFERING

to be collected on

Easter Sunday, April 1

The Sunday School children wish to help on this day. Let their tin cans "CLATTER" with joyful giving!

Please bring coins to drop into their containers.

Let us show our youth, that every gift
- large or small- CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

This will complete the One Great
Hour Of Sharing Campaign

The "calling tree" that Session members use to contact members at times of church cancellation, etc., is being updated.

If you have made a phone number change in the past year, such as getting rid of your land line phone in favor of a cell phone number, please let me know.



**Thank you,
Mindy Fisher
fisher@potsdam.edu
315-322-5585**



**Madrid Volunteer Fire Department's
66th Annual Firemen's
St. Patrick's Day
Turkey Dinner**

**March 18th
11^{AM} - 2^{PM}**

Madrid Waddington
Central School

**Adults
\$10**

**Seniors
65 & Over
\$9**

**Children
12 & Under
\$7**

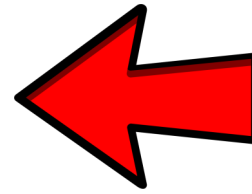
Proceeds Benefit the Madrid VFD

All Donations Appreciated, Please Mail To:
Madrid VFD
PO Box 69
Madrid, NY 13660



**Takeout & Delivery
Available**

**Call:
(315) 322-5746 ext 233**

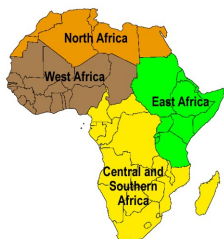


Support the **Madrid Volunteer Fire Department's** annual fund raiser by enjoying a delicious turkey dinner on Sunday, March



MINC

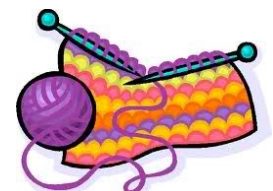
MINC Emergency Fund has assisted with a lot of heating fuel bills, as well as utility bills this winter. Funds are low. If you can possibly help some of our neediest North Country neighbors, please send a check to MINC, c/o Cynthia Coleman, Interim Treasurer, 5 Grant St, Potsdam, NY 13676.



First Presbyterian Church, Potsdam continues to knit baby sweaters and blankets for the Malawi Crisis Nursery, Africa. The community is invited to participate in this mission. They need hand knitted or crocheted sweaters, size Newborn to two years old; and blankets to cover babies of this age. Through correspondence with the Crisis Nursery, they know that the blankets and sweaters sent in prior years have been most gratefully received and immediately put to use.

They will be knitting and collecting items to be shipped out in May, 2018, just in time for the winter season in Malawi. They welcome anyone who can participate in helping fill this need for babies in these difficult situations.

You are welcome to join the knitting group on Mondays at 3 pm to knit; or call 315-265-5325 and they will arrange to get your finished donations anytime before the first of May, 2018.



~ This article is courtesy of First Presbyterian Church's March 2018 Parish Paper.