

A Few Minutes

First Presbyterian Church of Gilbertsville ~ 113 Marion Ave. ~ PO Box 314 ~ 13776



Pastor's Message

Walking Through the Mess in Lent

This time of year can be a little messy! Even as I write this, rain is causing the snow to melt and what had been ice is turning to mud puddles. There's just yuck everywhere! But it's worth it knowing that Spring is just around the corner.

The same thing can be said about the season of Lent (which means "spring!"). Starting on Ash Wednesday, Lent can be a bit messy. (You try making the ashes!) But that's kind of the point of Lent. Life is messy at times. It's never perfect. We mess up. We're human.

And so we are marked with a little mess on our foreheads as a reminder of the messiness of this life. But as the season moves forward, our prayers and music, scriptures and reflections also point us to another reality: all is not lost – because of Jesus Christ.

And so we set Lent apart as an intentional time – to remember what Christ has done and give thanks. We remember that through Christ we are saved – and the mess we're in – whatever it may be – is wiped clean through His love and sacrifice.

This Lent all are invited to take part in a special study called *The Walk - 5 essential Practices of the Christian Faith* by Adam Hamilton. They are: Increased worship and prayer, time in Bible study, missional service, learning to give selflessly while investing in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven, and faithful sharing of the Good News of our faith with others.

Do any or all of these ring true for you as areas of your life you'd like to try to engage with more? Or maybe the Spirit is calling you in other ways to make this Lent a holy time.

Think about it – but also remember – Lent may be a 6-week season – but the walk is for a lifetime.

I look forward to taking the Lenten walk with you.
Pastor Mark

What a JOY to be sharing worship in community
with the Baptist church this Lent! Be sure to check
the schedule for the wheres and whens of our
time together.

SERVICES MOVE TO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON MARCH 22, 11 AM, Coffee Hour 10:15

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

Palm Sunday – April 5—Communion

Maundy Thursday – April 9 – Special Service with Communion – 6:30 PM (Details TBA)

Good Friday – April 10 – Special Service – 7 PM – (Details TBA)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

6	Ashley L Bovaird
7	Amy Proskine
9	Jan Costello
10	Don Osborne
18	Roger Halbert
20	Lauren Hill
22	Roberta Halbert
24	Neal Dixon
25	Cooper Gundlach
27	Mike Hill
28	Chuck Taylor
	Beth Keene
31	Julie Gundlach

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

8	Helen Palen
16	Beverly Hay
20	Aimee Piemonte
22	Bill Musson
23	Theresa Sellazzo

Easter Sunday – April 12 – Sunrise Service at the Overlook, 6: 30 AM, with community breakfast at the Presbyterian Church this year. Regular worship at 11 AM in the sanctuary.

***Presbyterian Church to Host Easter Breakfast***

It has been the practice for the community churches to serve breakfast after the sunrise service held Easter morning, Sunday, April 12th at the overlook. This year, the Presbyterian Church is the host. Barb Hill and committee will be coordinating the menu, so stay tuned for help with the food supplies. A donation sign up sheet will be available on the table in the sanctuary. The free-will offering taken at the breakfast goes to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Prevention and Management of Osteoporosis

On Saturday, March 7, at 10 AM in the church basement, nurse practitioner Dawn Lawyer will be sharing her thoughts on bone health for women, especially osteoporosis. She will cover understanding it, plus treatment and prevention strategies.

Dawn received her master's in nursing from Binghamton University and has been a nurse practitioner for 15 years, with the majority of the time spent in primary care. She has a particular interest in rural health communities and preventative healthcare. Dawn lives in Mount Upton with her husband, Scott and 3 sons, Reed, Cash, and Quinn. She enjoys being outdoors, cooking and photography. Dawn and her family attend the Presbyterian Church.

Invite a friend to come with you and both can enjoy a snack and drink before the presentation.

Thanks to

- Roberta for spearheading plastic collection and for securing our PW speaker.
- Dawn Lawyer for the presentation on osteoporosis.
- Shirley for updating the official church register book.
- Elizabeth for faithful communion preparation.
- All who keep our buildings safe, clean, and comfortable.
- Barb Lilley for collecting items for **The Place** in Norwich.
- Jan Johnson for leading the love box drive.
- All who donate Easter flowers to make our celebration of the resurrection truly fragrant and beautiful.



Attention SERVERS!!

On **March 22**, the worship committee would like to thank all who serve in any way on Sundays (ushers/greeters/offering, liturgists, openers/closers, communion preparers and servers). Please join us after the service for a time of fellowship, to include *refreshments* in the choir room and a brief *refresher* on our traditions and practices, intended to take the guesswork out of these roles and smooth the way

for all! We invite anyone who currently serves or would be willing to serve in the future to join us. We hope to see you there!

Roadside Clean-up

Heads up to all crew members who are willing to devote an hour or so to tidying up our nearby stretch of road. The equipment is available April 29-May 4, so the date will be set within that timeframe. This is a great way to honor our Lord by helping to take care of His creation, and a fitting nod to Earth Day (April 22) as well. Details to follow.

A NOTE ON EASTER FLOWERS

PLEASE PLAN TO HAVE YOUR EASTER FLOWER CONTRIBUTION AT THE CHURCH BY NOON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11. NOTIFY JAN COSTELLO (783-2148; jcostello55@yahoo.com) OF ANY OMISSIONS OR CHANGES TO THE DONATION LIST TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THE EASTER BULLETIN. *Pick up your flowers at the end of the Easter Sunday service—any leftovers will be donated or used for future services.*



Farewell, Good and Faithful Servants

We are saddened by the passing of two long-time pillars of the church—Richard Daniels and Winona Slaughter.

Dick Daniels and his wife, Arlene, were among the most active and faithful lifetime members of the church until their health declined in recent years. They raised their four children and two foster sons in the church and never missed an opportunity to serve. Dick, a long-time ruling elder, was always on hand to set up for events and kept the church building clean and accessible, most often behind the scenes. His skill in woodworking and carpentry brought numerous benefits as well. Dick's hearty laugh and wit are dearly missed. Throughout his life of service, Dick set a fine example of strong and active faith, and his commitment to his church, his community, and his wife and family throughout his lifetime were unsurpassed. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Arlene, their children, and families. A service for Richard Daniels will take place on March 14.

Winona Slaughter came home to Gilbertsville to settle permanently in the early 1980s, having lived here during her childhood. She always considered FPC Gilbertsville her church home, no matter where she resided. Nona's interest in mission and worldwide connections led her to the Czech Republic a few years ago, where she and Mary Jane Schaeffer represented Susquehanna Valley Presbytery and made new friends in that part of the world. Through the years she served as ruling elder, PW officer, committee member, and active contributor in many capacities. Her faith, independence, and strong character inspired many.

Nona will be remembered for thoughtfully tackling tough issues, being curious about the world and its people, and researching Biblical themes on her own and with the Friday Bible Scholars. Her lifelong creative passions were expressed through her quilt shop and chair caning, among other things. Nona's strong faith and determined character served the church, the community, and her family well, and she will be missed by many. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to her children, grandchildren, family, and wide circle of friends. Arrangements for a celebration of Nona's life are pending.

PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING PROGRAM



March is the final month to help GMU defend their 2019 title of collecting the most plastic film amongst Otsego County schools. Items being collected are bubble wrap, case over wrap, newspaper sleeves and a variety of plastic bags (includes bread, cereal, dry cleaning, grocery, ice, produce, salt, wood pellet and closure items (like ziplocs) to name a few items. Acceptable items have a bit of a stretch to them. NOTE: MATERIAL SHOULD BE FREE OF CRUMBS AND DIRT. The Contest ends April 1st. Items may be left in the bag in the church sanctuary no later than March 22nd. Once again, let's help make this local project successful.

Prayer Concerns : Australia, Bahamas, and anyplace suffering natural disasters; Scott Bedics, John Birdsall, Jamie Bonvilla (UV student with kidney failure), Baby Ruby Cotter, Evelyn Butler, Barbara Butts (Chase Nursing Home), Jim Carr, Richard Crocco, Emma Conklin (Angel's baby daughter), Arlene Daniels and family, Sophie Dixson, Janet and Dennis Farbent, Rose Foster, Will Foster, Hilary & Bill Fuller, Butch Gage, Katie Gross's friends (Dalton and unnamed), The family of Deb Gross, Roger Halbert, the family of Carol Henkel, Steve Hughes, Bill Hultz (father of Piedmonte friend), Family and friends of Ron Ketchum and Brooke Ketchum, Pat Kuhn, Samantha Mayhood (UV student with head injury), Tim Meyers and family; Janet Nelson (Hampshire House), Nelson Park, Debbie Piedmonte, Larry Polsky, Garrett Proskine (Zach, Amy, Lauren & Dalton; Hill & Proskine Families), Brittany Ray, Jane Robertson, Joanne Rowe, Sue Sebeck, Family of Nona Slaughter, Bob Stearns, Family of Bobbie Stensland, George Stockdale, Doug Tobey, Sarah Tyler, Baby Eden Ver, Viktor & Kayla Ver, Arlyn Wade, Chuck Wade, Family of Tom Waterhouse— (Prayer requests: contact Nancy Meyers at rjmnlm@hotmail.com or Pastor Mark)

Send an Easter card or sometime greeting to our friends who can't be with us

Evelyn Butler, 73 Lyndon Lane, Haw River, NC 27258

Barbara Butts, Chase Nursing Home, 1 Terrace Heights, New Berlin, NY 13411

Joanne Rowe, Arlyn Wade, NRNC, 88 Calvary Dr. Norwich, NY 13815

Bruce and June Huggins, 686 Pear Drive, Fruita, CO 81521

Arlene Daniels, 1 Buntline Drive, Room 104, Stamford, NY 12167

Lucas Piedmonte, McDowell Hall #518-A, 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20016-8106

Beverly Hay, % Brenda Hay, 71 Hickory Place, Freeport, FL 32439-2821

Richard Crocco,, 256 Paramount St, Cottonwood, AZ 86326-5198

-----Clip and Post!!-----

Week of	Open/close	Ushers	Liturgist	Communion	Coffee Hour-10:15	Lamb's Closet+
Mar. 22	Elizabeth	Barb, Elizabeth	Shirley	X	Fellowship Committee*	3/21-Jan
Mar. 29	Pochy	Jim and Susie	Dean	X	Fellowship Committee*	3/28-Barb
Apr. 5	Mary	Helen and Bud	Jake	Mary, Sue W. Glenn, _____	Fellowship Committee*	4/4-Helen
Apr. 12	Glenn	Shirley, Beth	Calvin	X	Fellowship Committee*	4/11-Mary
Apr. 19	Veenhof	Barb, Laura	Judy	X	Fellowship Committee*	4/18-Judy
Apr. 26	Roberta	Roberta, Roger	Roger	X	Fellowship Committee*	4/25-Susie

*Drinks provided; please bring something to share if you would like, per Baptist coffee hour

+Please contact Theresa Sellazzo if unable to tend the Closet—867-4046