

THE PATHFINDER

"Making disciples who make a difference."

February 2018

THE VIEW FROM THE MANSE

The church season of Lent begins each year with Ash Wednesday, which this year coincides with Valentine's Day – February 14. Both in a way are celebrations of love, but very different kinds of love. Lent is an opportunity to reflect on how you are doing with Jesus and to be intentional about strengthening your relationship with him. Some Lenten traditions involve giving up something during this time. I am a big fan of *taking on* something during Lent - perhaps a new spiritual discipline, joining a Bible study or prayer group, recruiting a prayer partner or reading a book.

Speaking of reading a book...one of our Lenten traditions at APC is to read a book together. This gives us a chance to focus on a common theme and usually generates some good conversations. Some of our small group Bible studies will read and discuss the book together. Last year's book *Encounters With Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions* by Tim Keller was probably the most challenging book we have done. On one level it was a little more challenging academically than the other books we have done. But it was also more challenging in its insights, causing us to see things in Jesus' life that we may not have seen before.

We've decided to try another Keller book this year - *Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God*. I like the help of a book like this during Lent to focus my attention on Jesus. Although I will be on sabbatical, I will be reading this book along with you. Copies of this book are available on the counter in the Lobby for \$10. Please place the money in the mail slot next to the office door. You can just put it in loose and we'll know what it is for.

Steve McLean, Pastor

(steve@argylepresbyterian.org)

P.S. Lord willing, Kim and I will leave on February 1 for my sabbatical. During my sabbaticals I have limited my use of email, but if you need to touch base with me, fell free to call (518-791-6249).

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

In the new year, we have some exciting things happening at APC. I would like to talk with you about our upcoming changes to the website. The website has served us well, but we became convinced that it was time to update it. We spend a lot of time, money, and effort keeping our curbside appearance looking welcoming and we thought it was time for “digital front door” to get some of the same attention. This conversation was actually begun by one of the members of our congregation who has taken it upon himself to donate a lot of his time to design and develop an initial website look that is very professional and inviting.

The session took a look at the work that had been done and was very impressed. They voted to start a team that would finish the website in such a fashion that it reflected well the broader heart of APC. The members of the team are Ida Williams, Ray Monroe, Tonya Schneible, Lou Hoffis, and myself. We are concentrating on several things. We would like to make the livestream as easy to access as possible. We know that many in our congregation use it on a regular basis and we would like to make it as straightforward as possible to access.

We would like to highlight upcoming events and make it easy to see what is happening at APC. We are also adding a tab/button for online giving. As of now, our plan is to use Kindrid as an online resource for donations and offerings. You will be able to either follow a link or give through a text message. If you were to set up an online giving account with your bank, it would be simple and easy to give every month. Our hope is that this would be another, more convenient way for the members of our congregation to give. You are, of course, still able to use offering envelopes if you desire to stick with paper. The security for this website is PCI Level one (this is the highest level of online bank security). If you would like to learn more about Kindrid you can do so here: <https://kindrid.com/>.

In the future, our hopes are to have pictures that are up to date, a staff page, and other resources. If you have needs or recommendations related to the website, please talk to a member of the web team.

Bryan Fitzgerald, Associate Pastor

(bryan@argylepresbyterian.org)

PS - Thank you for your graciousness and generosity to the Fitzgerald family this year and this holiday season. It has been a blessing to receive your cards and kind gifts. We love you and praise Jesus for you.

IRON SHARPENS IRON MEN'S CONFERENCE

This is advance warning for this year's Iron Sharpens Iron Conference to be held on Saturday, April 14 at Grace Fellowship (Albany). Please mark this date on your calendar, tell a friend about it and check out all the details at www.ironsharpensiron.net – “Conferences” – “Albany, NY.”

The cost including lunch is \$60 (\$30 for students). Call the office to register.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

(2/4-3/18)

- ❖ Book of Job – Phyllis Snell & James Smith - What is your greatest fear? To whom do you turn when the worst possible thing you've ever imagined has happened? Do you ever wonder what God is doing? Have you spoken to Him about your fears...your doubts...your questions? The Old Testament book of Job is a book for anyone who has experienced or witnessed unexplained suffering and asked the question "Why?" If your goal in asking that question is to wrestle your way into a deeper intimacy with God, studying the responses to Job's tragedy may be the catalyst you've been waiting for.
- ❖ For Women Only – Gabe Johnson - We will be reading portions of Kelly Black's book of devotions, *Lessons Learned: Finding God in the Crazy Moments of Life*. Are you like me? I get a lot out of Sunday morning worship. I sit in my pew and think, yeah, I can do this! But then by lunchtime the "crazy" starts to set in. Kelly's writing walks us through her daily life, the big and little. Christmas in a new town, romance, diagnoses, crying over the national news, having a special needs child, struggling to fit into a new church family. She is living real life. Join us for the discussion! *My copy of the book is hanging on the bulletin board in the lobby if you want to thumb through it!*
- ❖ Emotionally Healthy Spirituality – Bryan Fitzgerald - We often make the mistake of assuming that our spiritual life relates to our knowledge of the Word and actions, and we overlook the emotional component of our Faith. But Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God with all of our *heart*, soul, and mind. The Psalms are full of dialogue about the inner-life of man with God. In his book, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, Peter Scazzaro argues that "it is impossible to be spiritually mature and be emotionally immature." We are going to spend time thinking about that together in this class.
- ❖ "Death and Resurrection of the Messiah" – Eileen Jackson - This Ray Vander Laan DVD presentation is a wonderful way to experience the Bible in historical context. He takes you on site and helps you to understand the meaning of Scripture passages. This series is subtitled, "Bringing God's Shalom to a World in Chaos." Please join me in pursuit of this shalom and of a deeper grasp of God's Word.

HEY KIDS, LET'S DANCE!

Vacation Bible School seems so far away, but we still remember the dance moves - do you? Lots of you are still listening to the VBS music in your cars and you probably know all the words. Come to our winter break **VBS reunion dance party!** Do you have a kid neighbor or friend that loves to dance too? Be sure to bring them!

Saturday, February 24th from 1-3pm

All elementary kids are invited to a dance party in Fellowship Hall. We'll be singing and dancing to the last few summers' VBS songs. There will be snacks too.

****THIS IS NOT A DROP-OFF EVENT, PARENTS CAN HANG OUT IN THE LOBBY (KID-FREE) AND ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE AND WIFI.**

TRUSTEE TALK

Resting Up for Spring

This is typically our quiet time of the year. We are planning for several spring/summer projects. There are always some repairs that need attention. A new push lawn mower and leaf blower will be purchased to replace worn out equipment.

After further investigation and information, we have decided to leave the movable wall between Fellowship Hall and the Lobby as is. The possible repair is labor intensive, and it is only a possible repair, not necessarily able to be accomplished. The unit remains functional, but may allow a little more noise from the Lobby into Fellowship Hall. If additional problems arise, we will revisit our options.

We said our farewell and thanks to Carl Johnson, who has faithfully served on the Trustees for six years. He knows how to do most everything and is always willing to do it. THANK YOU, Carl. Wilson Chapman will join us. We look forward to working with him.

During Steve and Kim's sabbatical, the heat will be monitored by a Winter Watchman. This is essentially a thermostat attached to a lamp. If the temperature falls below 50, for example, it triggers the lamp to turn on. This lamp will be in the left hand, living room window. We would appreciate your assistance, by notifying the office or a Trustee, if you see this lamp on when you are passing the manse. We will investigate and rectify the problem.

As always, we welcome notification of any problems you notice.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Dear Ladies, we're going to get to see a lot of each other this winter! It starts out with a women's only Sunday School class. We will be reading portions of Kelly Black's book of devotions, "Lessons Learned: Finding God in the Crazy Moments of Life." My copy of this book is hanging on the bulletin board in the lobby if you want to thumb through it!

Kelly is a smart and bubbly REAL woman. She lives in PA with her husband and as-we-speak four children. She and her family are in China, adopting for the second time. They hope (and pray!) to bring Titus home this month. And do you know what she's doing in May?

COMING TO OUR WOMEN'S RETREAT TO LEAD US IN A
WEEKEND OF BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP!!!!

Save the date: Women's retreat at Christ The King, May 4&5! I can't wait sit down and share this book with you in Sunday School, bring your coffee and a Bible!

-Gabe

THANK YOU

I wish to extend my thanks to the Deacons for the plate of cookies you brought to me at Christmastime. The homemade cookies were a real treat!!

Thank you, Barbara McGeoch

Dear Church Friends- My family and I are overwhelmed with all the love and support given to us at this difficult time. The Celebration of Life for Bob was beautifully done. So many brought food, the kitchen staff was amazing and cards with heartfelt messages fill the mailbox each day. Bob so looked forward to visiting with you each Sunday, going to Bible study, visiting Mac at Fort Hudson and Monday morning firehouse coffee. Thank you dear friends.

Betty Reynolds

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all the friendly drivers that have brought us to church each week over the years! Attending Sunday morning worship at the church is a treat and we really appreciate the folks that help make that happen. A special thank you to Brooke for bringing us Chris, our wonderful, steady driver. We are so thankful to you both for bringing us to visit and worship among friends and family.

From, Carol, Pauline, Ray, Sue, & Susan

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for so many plates of home-baked Christmas Cookies! We had a lovely time delivering them to our Friends at home. There is nothing like a tall platter of delicious cookies to brighten a snowy winter day! We also brought some of your cookies to The Open Door Soup Kitchen to share. The folks there just love home-baked treats. Thanks for your part in this tradition, ~ The Deacons

NEWS OF NOTE

- \$736 was given for our Advent Offering for the Open Door Mission's Capital Project. An additional \$1000 in budgeted mission funds was given, as well.
- Each month we forward the CPYU Parent Page to interested parents of teens, youth leaders and teachers. This 4 page monthly newsletter from The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding is full of interesting information to help "parents understand teenagers and their world." Our congregation has a subscription to Parent Page which allows us to distribute it to you. If you are not receiving this and would like to, send an email to office@argylepresbyterian.org.
- Video copies of our worship services and our monthly newsletter, The Pathfinder, are available on our website – www.argylepresbyterian.org.
- This year you helped the kids participating in the 30 Hour Famine to raise \$2064 to help in the fight against hunger. That will feed 1 child for more than 4 years. Thank you!!

PRIMETIMERS SCHEDULE **(Plus 50's Ministry)**

The purpose of the PrimeTimers is to provide programs for plus 50 adults that are ministry focused, study focused or fellowship focused. PrimeTimers' events are open to anyone who is at least 50 years old and their spouses. Feel free to invite friends from outside the church. Please mark your calendars for...

- On March 3 we will be traveling to Hubbard Hall to see "The Velocity of Autumn." The show is at 2 p.m. If we have a group of 10 or more our ticket price is \$10/person. There is also an optional dinner at the Burger Den following the performance.
- We are inviting the **whole congregation** to join us for a trip to the Rotterdam Mall Aquarium in Schenectady on April 14. We are leaving the church at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$8/person.
- On June 6 we are leaving the church at 9 a.m. to tour the Vermont Marble Museum with lunch to follow.

The PrimeTimers' Planning Team

(Jan Cole, Paul & Faith McWhorter, Betty Reynolds, Alyce Linscott & Ed Dennis, Ellen Fullerton, Carol Fleming & Steve McLean)

DEACONS' CORNER

BAKE SALES: The Deacons will be coordinating two more bake sales in the near future to benefit the Open Door Mission's soup kitchen and shelter. Please help us to raise money for this ministry by baking, and of course buying, some yummy treats on Sundays, February 4th and March 4th. While the bake sales will be held following worship service, you may reserve an item before the service by paying a "dividend". We greatly appreciate your help in supporting the less fortunate in our area.

COOKING DAY: The Deacons are sponsoring a cooking day to fill the freezer with meals that can be used when a need arises in the congregation due to illness, a death in the family, or other difficulties. We will be making casseroles, applesauce, and even desserts. We are asking for your assistance to provide some of the ingredients, and/or help out with the cooking, which will be in the kitchen here at APC on Saturday, February 10th at 9:00 am. There will be tasks for people with all levels of ability, so please come and join in the fun even if you don't consider yourself a "real chef". The list of donations we need will be on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Donations will have to be left in the church kitchen (marked "Cooking Day") no later than Thursday, February 8th. Please sign up on the Fellowship in Worship Forms to let us know you can help out in the kitchen, or call me at (518) 638-8479. Thank you.

Blessings, Lisa White

YOUNG LIFE UP-COMING EVENTS

"Not-So-Young" Life Club: February 24, 6-8pm

This is for the Adults!

Join us for an evening of laughs, music, snacks, and a chance to experience firsthand what Young Life Club is like! For this night you don't have a to-do list, you are just a teenager experiencing Young Life Club! That's right, you as a teenager in high school, having a blast at Young Life club with friends.

Our hope is for adults in our community to experience Young Life club and why students love it. We can't wait for you to come and join us! Please feel free to invite others!

Please let a Young Life leader know if you will need childcare.

Spud Bar/Open Mic Night: March 24, 6-8pm

Please join us for a night of awesome food and music! Feel free to join in on the performance or just sit back and enjoy; we've got a great line up already! This is a family friendly event but we will also have the option of childcare! There is no fee, we are asking for donations that will go toward our Young Life camp scholarship fund!

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER VIGIL

Lent begins each year with Ash Wednesday which this year is February 14. For years we have been observing Ash Wednesday with a Prayer Vigil. Here is how that will work this year.

- As in the past you are invited to sign up to pray for a 30 minute interval during the day. We will try to cover as much of the day as possible. Prayer guides will be provided and most folks find no problem filling the 30 minutes. Watch for opportunities to sign up in worship.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

Infant /Todler Nursery

Jenn Gonzales
Feb 4 – Sandy Hoffis,
Kim Wood
Feb 11 – Tina & Skylar
McDougall
Feb 18 – Ken Bian,
Katie Schneible
Feb 25 – Beth Cameron,
Carolyn McClellan

Preschool Nursery

Jenn Bushway
Feb 4 – Delia Wohlleben
Feb 11 – Debbie Bailey
Feb 18 – Clare Jameson
Feb 25 – Gabe Johnson

Children's Church

Feb 4 – Rich & Marcia
Monroe
Feb 11 – Bailey & Ryan
Charon
Feb 18 – Cody Knowlton,
Jackie Steidle
Feb 25 – Rob & Lauren
McWhorter

Food Pantry

Item of the Month

Personal Care Items

Food Pantry – Saturday, 10 a.m.

Feb 3 – Jan Cole, Marion Miller
Feb 10 – Janine & Laura Depew
Feb 17 – Janet Brown, Donna Marns
Feb 24 – Bri Knowlton, Beth Cook

Open Door Soup Kitchen – Lunch- Tuesday, February 13th

Steve McLean

Open Door Soup Kitchen – Lunch- Tuesday, February 27th

Gayle Smith, Barb Munger-Russell

Open Door Soup Kitchen – Dinner-Friday, February 16th

Mary Ellen Bain, Tanya MacNeil, Donna Wohlleben

Greeters

Feb 4 – Bill & Judy Liddle
Feb 11 – Chuck & Debbie Bailey
Feb 18 – Missy Germain, Bree Horton
Feb 25 – Nathan Fiske Family

Ushers

Feb 4 – Gordy & Eileen Jackson,
Jan Cole, Joanne Pollock
Feb 11 – Wes & Linda Clark,
Ken & Heidi Brownell
Feb 18 – Marty & Elna Butterfield,
Betty Reynolds, Missy Germain
Feb 25 – Chuck & Debbie Bailey,
Wilson & Carley Chapman