



## The Beacon



WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

882-9874

[www.westcharltonupc.org](http://www.westcharltonupc.org)

2010

### *Pastoral Reflections*

*A young child attended worship on Christmas Eve with her grandmother. The child was touched by the story and celebration of the birth of baby Jesus. The next time the child attended worship with her grandmother was a Maundy Thursday supper service. As they sat before the Communion Table and prepared to receive the bread and the cup, the child turned to her grandmother and said, "Grandma, they're going to kill and eat the baby Jesus! He was just born! Crossing her arms in front of her with a frown, well, I'm not eating!"*

How can we help our children and ourselves understand these crucial events of our Christian faith? It's a short few months between the joy of Advent and Christmas and the passion, pain and triumph of Lent and Easter. When it's explained, many of us can grasp the symbolic nature and annual rhythm of the Christian year. But for children and the more literal part of us, the interval between the baby Jesus, whom we meet at Christmas, and the adult Jesus, whom we crucify and bury during Holy Week, is just too short. How do we help our young concrete thinkers embrace the meaning of Lent and Easter without scaring them or pushing them away? Traditionally, the season of Lent is a season of faith formation in the church. Our Lenten Family Gatherings and Holy Week services allow us all hands on experiences of repentance, forgiveness, community, sadness and joy. There will be death; there will be burial for each of us. We can tell our children that even Jesus experienced death and burial, but death was not the end for Jesus. Neither is death the end for us, for Jesus promises to welcome us to a life beyond any wonderful thing we can know. This is our hope forever and ever. It's often difficult to talk about such things as adults, let alone as children. But the concrete experiences of Lenten worship give us entry points for sharing God's wonderful, hopeful promises with children. At the beginning of Lent, we mark the time when Jesus is sent into the wilderness. While there, he prays and prepares for what lies ahead for him. Likewise, the season of Lent can be presented to children as a time to pause, to pray, and to prepare for what lies ahead for us. These brief six weeks can stand as a respite from the regular rhythms of life. During Lent we set aside this time for special study, prayer, singing and fellowship. Our Lenten Family Gatherings allow us to use the Lenten season to be taught and to teach our children about prayer, or to read the Bible passages about Jesus praying. Parents can encourage a family prayer time each week or each night during Lent. The Last Supper, which Jesus shared with his friends, is another concrete Bible story that we can share with our children. The Last Supper is recalled during our Maundy Thursday supper & worship service, with the celebration of communion. We all can hear and experience Jesus calling his friends to gather around a table with him. Children are able to connect with this concept of people who gather to share a special meal. In the celebration of communion, Jesus and his friends are likened to an extended family, as the church community is the extended family for those who worship together. Common table elements are blessed, shared, and eaten, just as families often share common foods at home. The communion table is also an entry point for talking with children about Jesus' final meal with his friends and the meal we continue to share in our churches. At these meals, we remember Jesus. We can also talk with children about sharing this communion meal again with Jesus and with all of our friends and family, in heaven and on earth. This can be a rich teaching moment for a child or the child in all of us to draw on each time the Lord's Supper is celebrated in the church. Good Friday is another term that is difficult to understand. Why do we call the day Jesus was crucified and buried good? Finally, the brightness and joy of Easter morning stands as an antidote to the solemn passion of Holy Week. The reality of life is that sadness, pain, and disappointment exist. Children, as well as adults, have

experienced these emotions on some level in their lives. Easter morning and Jesus' resurrection stand in our faith tradition as ringing affirmations that there is good. God is good. Light shines and darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5)!

We want to talk to our children about these things. We want to tell them the good news, to tell them about Jesus, to assure them God holds all things in hand. Words can't convey all the mysteries of faith. Experiencing events in concrete ways, participating, worshiping, praying, and celebrating give openings for the words we want to share. Ultimately what we seek for our children is that they embrace the faith we have also received.

Lenten Family Gatherings: Sunday nights 6-7pm; March 7, 14 & 21

Maundy Thursday Supper Service: April 1<sup>st</sup> 6pm

Good Friday Service: April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm

Easter Sunday Services: April 4<sup>th</sup> 7am & 10:30am

Let's walk along with them and deepen our faith together.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom

## Easter Flowers

Orders due by **March 14, 2010**

Lilies No. \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Red Azaleas No. \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In *memory* or *honor* (circle one) of:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to West Charlton United Presbyterian Church. Payment can be made on Easter Sunday or earlier and given to Connie Wood (882-6684), Rebecca Wood (899-4274), Fred Lachtrupp (882-9914), or Chris Nelson (882-1585).

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my flower(s) after church.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to give my flower(s) to a shut-in.

## ALBANY PRESBYTERY MEETING ON FEBRUARY 6, 2010.

The meeting resumed with the Hebron Business from the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Reviewed status of motions postponed and heard Council response to input from Hebron Board and Trustees. The Hebron Board recommends that Presbytery postpone all action regarding sale of the Hebron property until the Board has reported the results of its visioning process initiated at the instruction of Presbytery in June 2009. The Board will be prepared to make that report at the June 2010 meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve to postpone the vote until June meeting.

The following overtures were presented to Presbytery for approval to be sent to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA.

From First United Church, Troy:

1. W-4.9001 Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage is a covenant between two people and according to the laws of the state also constitutes a civil contract. For Christians marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman two people are called to live out together before God their lives of discipleship. In a service of Christian marriage a lifelong commitment is made between two people, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.
2. W-4.9002 a. In preparation for the marriage service, the minister shall provide for a discussion two people concerning
3. W-4.9004 The service begins with the scriptural sentences and a brief statement of purpose. The two people shall declare their intention to enter into Christian marriage and shall exchange vows of love and faithfulness. The service includes appropriate passages of Scripture, which may be interpreted in various forms of proclamation. Prayers shall be offered for the couple, for the communities which support them in this new dimension of discipleship, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness. In the name of the triune God the minister shall declare publicly that the woman and the man two people are now joined in marriage.
4. W-4.9006 A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage or civil union and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to the marriage service except that the opening statement, the declaration of intention, the exchange of vows by the couple, and the public declaration by the minister reflect the fact that the two people are already united according to the laws of the state.

The overture was approved by 64 Yes, 18 no.

From the First Church of Albany:

Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Lay Pastors authorized to conduct services of Christian marriage may exercise pastoral discretion when asked to officiate at ceremonies for couples who have obtained a civil marriage license, and Sessions may permit the use of church property for such services. Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Lay Pastors may refuse to conduct such services, and Sessions may refuse to permit the use of church property for such purposes.

From The Presbyterian-New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Springs:

Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where He leads through the witness of the Scriptures and the interpretations of the confessions. In doing so, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each Governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation establishes the candidate's faithful efforts to adhere to these standards.

The previous two overtures were passed.

**HOME FURNISHINGS PROGRAM**  
**March 2010**

**NEED OF THE MONTH:**  
**Toasters and Pot holders**

**ALWAYS NEEDED: BEDS!**

**Also:**  
**Drinking glasses**  
**Flatware and kitchen utensils**  
**Queen sheets and blankets**

**Please help us to help others!**  
**Call 346-2444**

**Office hours: 10-2, Monday-Thursday**  
**Program Coordinators: Jamie Doriguzzi and Michelle Miller**  
**Visit us on the Web at [schenectadyhomefurnishings.org](http://schenectadyhomefurnishings.org)**

***BOARD MEMBERS WANTED for the Home Furnishings Program!***

Our by-laws recommend from 10 to 21 members - we only have 10.  
We are an active Board, short on funds and dependent on volunteers.  
We need more help as we face increasing needs in this difficult economy.

Especially needed:

People with financial and grant-writing skills  
People with communications skills of any kind  
Warehouse maintenance workers and sorters  
Someone to be in charge of vehicle maintenance  
A good volunteer coordinator

**If you can help, please contact our Program Coordinators, Jamie Doriguzzi and Michelle Miller, at 346-2444. Their office hours are from 10-2, Monday through Thursday.**

Our Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at 603 State Street (the First United Methodist Church library). Each Board member is also expected to serve on a committee or to carry a responsibility as a committee of one.

Need to know more about us?

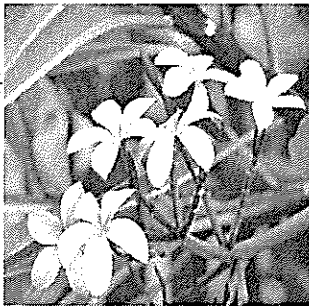
Check us out on line at [schenectadyhomefurnishings.org](http://schenectadyhomefurnishings.org)

**Flowers for the Chancel**

If you are interested in giving flowers to be placed on the chancel on a Sunday during the year—please contact Sonja Greenhill at 882-9462. Sonja has a list of local florists that will deliver to the church. Please fill out the form and give it to Sonja or mail it to her.

Please check with her to make sure no one else has chosen the Sunday you would like to give.

The flowers can be taken by the person giving them, or they can be given to a person who is a shut-in or someone not feeling well.



**Flowers for the Chancel**

I,

Would like to have flowers placed on the Chancel on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date).

Any special celebration or memorial for which you are providing these flowers:

Please give to Sonja Greenhill. Sonja can be reached at 882-9462.

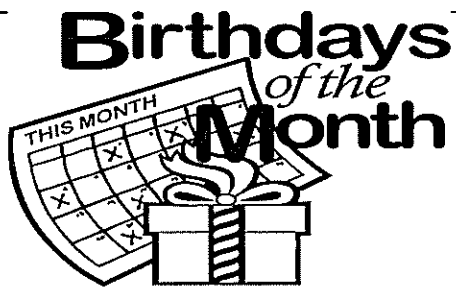
**Galway Food Pantry**

Items needed are soups, canned meats, ketchup, mayonnaise cereal (cold and hot), pancake syrup, coffee, peanut butter and jelly, side dishes, personal care items.

Thank you for your continued support!!!

Cut out and use as your shopping list:

Multiple horizontal lines for writing a shopping list.



*Happy Birthday* to everyone who has a birthday in February including the following people:

Chris Donnan, 3rd	Georgia Haller, 2th
Rebecca Pike, 5th	Taylor Mathias, 21st
Olivia Cooper, 7th	Angela Tompkins, 21st
Gavin Mathias, 9th	Amy Shadlock, 27th
Neila Nowicki	Gloria Wood, 27th
John King, 19th	Margo Jones, 28th
(Balston Spa)	Serenity O'Brien, 29th
Artie Tompkins, 19th	

Louise Smith Circle  
will meet Tuesday,  
  
March 23 at  
Ann Vanderhort's home

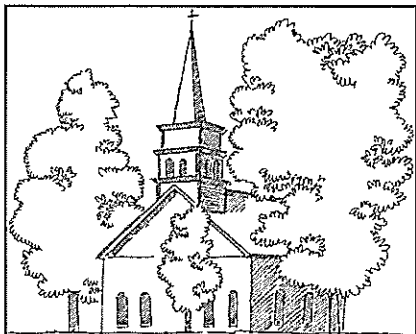
**March**

**Lay Worship Leaders**

7 Helen King  
14 Geralyn De La Fleur  
21 Bonnie Donnan  
28 Helen King

**Ushers:** Linda McConchie      Bonnie Donnan  
                 Barbara Nachbar      Darlene Muzzie

**Greeters:** Kathy and Dick Kindl:



*Worship With Us*

**Treasurer's Report**

Local Fund

Balance 01/01/2010	\$ -0-
Receipts:	14,037.74
Expenses	12,483.42
Balance	+\$1,554.32

**Work Night**  
**March 11**  
**6-8pm**



Come join us at the church in repairing, fixing, painting, building, remodeling, re-arranging, re-doing, improving, or any other ...ing that needs to be done at the Church or at the Manse. AND have fun doing it.

**MARCH 2010**

**3rd-7:00PM-Deacons meet**

**5<sup>th</sup>-WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**7<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT-COMMUNION**

**9:00AM-Choir Practice**

**9:30AM-Adult Bible Study**

**10:30AM-Worship Service, Sunday School & Child Care**

**Tools of Hope offering, Installation of Women's Assoc. officers**

**11:30-Woman's Assoc. BAKE SALE**

**6:00PM-Lenten gathering for the whole family**

**9<sup>th</sup>-9:30AM-Louise Smith Circle meets**

**11<sup>th</sup>-6-8PM-WORK NIGHT**

**14<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT--COMMUNION**

**-9:00AM-Choir practice**

**9:30AM-Adult Bible Study**

**10:30AM-Worship Service, Sunday School & Child Care**

**11:30AM-Fellowship Hour-**

**6:00PM-Lenten gathering for the whole family**

**16<sup>th</sup>-7:00PM-Session meets**

**17<sup>th</sup>-7:00PM-Helen Killough Circle meets**

**21<sup>st</sup>-5th SUNDAY OF LENT-COMMUNION**

**9:00AM-Choir practice**

**9:30AM-Adult Bible Study**

**10:30AM-Worship Service with Sunday School & Child Care**

**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY**

**6:00PM-Lenten gathering for the whole family**

**28<sup>th</sup>-PALM SUNDAY**

**9:00AM-Choir practice**

**9:30AM-Adult Bible Study**

**10:30AM-Worship Service with Sunday School & Child Care**

**Session Meeting Highlights**  
**February 16, 2010**

- Session meeting was called to order at 7PM with scripture and prayer by Tom Gregg.
- Welcomed new members Dave Lewis, John King.
- Jean Weed asked to be removed from Session and Helen King will fill the rest of Jean's term.
- January minutes were read and approved.
- Fred Lachtrupp will continue to be our delegate at the Presbytery meetings with John King being our second delegate.
- Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.
- Deacon's report was read and approved.
- Our facilities committee needs more volunteers for work night. There was discussion on having two groups, one during the evening and another during the day or on a Saturday.
- Darron will continue to work with the UPY and confirmation group.
- Discussion of Holy Week activities and responsibilities.
- Meeting closed with prayer at 8:40 PM.