



Easter 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I greet you in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who once suffered and died and is alive today.

The Christian author and historian Peter Marshall reflected about Resurrection Day in this way, "The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in."

When we look at how Jesus arose victoriously from the grave on that first Easter, we have no choice but to shout Hallelujah, He is Risen! William and Gloria Gaither got it right when they penned these words, "Because He lives, we can face tomorrow, because he lives, all fear is gone; because we know he holds the future and life is worth the living just because he lives" (364UMH). "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep" (1Cor. 15:20). Jesus is indeed alive for all of eternity and because he is alive, we have everlasting life if we simply accept Him as Savior.

This is a time of year when things should be coming to life all around us. As we take the time to pause and reflect on the circumstances surrounding Jesus' death, we develop a strong appreciation for this act of love and for the life of Christ himself. From birth, the cross was always before him and drew him nearer to it with every passing year.

Today, more than ever, we who live in the 21st century are joyful to know that the stone is rolled away from the tomb. As we experience many challenges, we could look with confidence into the empty tomb knowing that there is hope; there is joy and restoration as we continue on our journey of faith. Amidst all the economic difficulties, health concerns, threats to our nation from terrorists groups and more, it is my prayer that as we celebrate another Resurrection Day that we would find renewed strength, new life, and vigor in the Christ who suffered, died, and is once again alive.



Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – March 2016

I take this opportunity to extend an invitation for you to join us in our joint Holy Thursday service (Gethsemane and Bellevue Heights) at Bellevue Heights UMC at 7pm., for Easter Sunrise Service at either the Woodland Reservoir or Bellevue Heights UMC fellowship hall (depending on the weather) and Easter Service at Bellevue Heights UMC, 9:30 am., as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please invite you family and friends to this wonderful worship experience. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Resurrection Day Blessings,

Rev. Andy M. Anderson

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ALTAR GUILD

Thank you to those who donated altar flowers for February and March. We now need to fill in the April Sundays – 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. If you wish to provide flowers in memory or honor of loved ones or for some other special reason, please contact either Pauline Filsinger at 475-6025 or the church office 475-0011. The cost of a floral arrangement is \$20.00.

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LITURGISTS NEEDED

Anyone interested in helping with “liturgizing” on Sunday mornings, please call Linda Parton at 469-3460. You can also reach me at ljparton@bluefrog.com or leave a message at the church office – 475-0011. Thank you.

Linda Parton

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Submitted by Maxine Adams

In the United States, March is Women's History Month. Myra Pollack Sadker said, "Each time a girl opens a book and reads a womanless history, she learns she is worth less." The National Women's History Project leads the drive to write women back into history. The 2016 theme for Women's History Month is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government."

The large majority of ancient cultures were patriarchal and they practiced customs that held women in low esteem and limited freedom. I invite you to forget worldly wisdom concerning women and believe God's word concerning them. Proverbs 31:30-31 states, "Charm can be deceptive and physical beauty will not last, but a woman who reveres the Eternal [God] should be praised above all others. Celebrate all she has achieved. Let all her accomplishments publicly praise her."

God's word declares these things about women:

- Her worth far exceeds that of rubies and expensive jewelry.
- She inspires trust.
- Delight attends her work and guides her fingers.
- She has a plan.
- She wraps herself in strength, carries herself with confidence, and works hard.
- She tastes success and knows it is good.
- She reaches out to the poor and extends mercy to those in need.
- Clothed in strength and dignity, with nothing to fear, she smiles when she thinks of the future.
- She conducts her conversations with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is her concern.

When you fully understand how precious you are to God, low self-esteem will be forever banished from your life.



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

As March blossoms so do our hopes for warmer weather and bright sunshine!

This month we will welcome the Roisin Academy of Irish Dance for a St. Patrick’s Day performance. Our preschoolers are in for a festive treat! It is always so much fun to make time for a community event within our school day and the children and families all enjoy it.

We will also continue to encourage our students to explore learning through Easter, St. Patrick’s Day and Springtime activities. The change of seasons provides us with ample opportunity to guide the students on their journey of learning through play! Critters will be emerging from hibernation, flowers will bud and blossom and the trees will become green again! Wonderful examples of science and art right in our backyard! We are looking forward to making these observations while getting full use of the playground once again.

We have opened enrollment to new families for Fall 2016! Currently, we have openings in both our three- and four-year old classes. Please any interested parents to call Kathy at 475-2344.

Like you, we are looking forward to all the new beginnings the better weather and blooming spring will bring. We are ready!

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FREE MOVIE AT THE LANDMARK

The City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs will be hosting a **free** showing of the movie “HOP” on Saturday, March 26th, at 4:00 pm at the Landmark Theater in downtown Syracuse. The doors will open at 3:00 pm and the movie will start at 4:00 pm. There will be a special appearance by our favorite bunny!!

No registration or tickets are required. Please call 473-4330 for more information.

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PLANNED GIVING

Maybe some of you remember the daily column, STRENGTH FOR THE DAY, by Elisha Douglas. In one of his writings. “... he told the story of a man who was approached by a friend soliciting a contribution for the Building Fund of their church. ‘Frankly John I do not see why I should give anything. I don’t attend church anymore, or take part in any activities. What does the church do for me?’

The solicitor thought for a moment. “Well, you were baptized in the church, you went to Sunday School, you met your wife in the young people’s group, you were married in the church and your children still attend Sunday School. What kind of community would this be if we didn’t have any churches? The church won’t quit just because you won’t give a few dollars, or stay away. The Church keeps on going and it’s you who had better get back in step.’ Said the friend, ‘I will – right now! Let me get my check book.’”

The Solicitor added, “It is remarkable how many good things are taken for granted – a good wife, or husband, friendship, freedom, the church. Thomas Paine long ago said, ‘Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.’ It is equally true that those who expect to reap the blessings of the church must undergo the fatigue and sacrifice of supporting it.”

Planned Giving – do you have a question? Interest? Thoughts in general – ask – your Pastor – or – Even “me”.

Jeffrey W Morey
Jmorey @twcny.rr.com

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The Devil’s Beatitudes – submitted by Bob Large

If the Devil were to write his own beatitudes, they would probably go something like this:



Blessed are those Christians who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend time with their fellow Christians in church for they are my best candidates to backslide.

Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked for I can use them to slow things down.

Blessed are those Christians who are touchy; with a bit of luck, they may stop going to church and get others to quit – they are my missionaries.

Blessed are those Christians who are very religious, but get on everyone's nerves – they are my most effective stumbling blocks.

Blessed are those Christians who are troublemakers – they are my best wrecking crew.

Blessed are those Christians who have no time to pray – they are easy prey for me.

Blessed are those Christians who are complainers – they are my best discouragers.

Blessed are you when you read this and think it is about other people and not yourself. I've got you!

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UMW NEWS

Join United Methodist Women members around the country on **March 23rd** for the **Second Annual Day of Giving to The Legacy Fund**, part of our five-year 150th anniversary celebration!

It's easy to give:

- Online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8am-6pm EST Mon-Fri)
- Text Legacy 150 to 41444
- By check to Office of the Treasurer, United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. Write "The Legacy Fund" in the memo section.

The Legacy Fund is a permanent endowment to support the Work of future generations of United Methodist Women.



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**March Birthdays
Happy Birthday to you!!!**

Please notify the office by phone or e-mail with additions or corrections.

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|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 01 | Gregory Wood | 16 | Deborah Rosecrans |
| 05 | Barbara Sullivan | | Sarah Kirst |
| | John James Scott | 18 | Mary Graham |
| 06 | Brett Wood | | Lisa Mawson |
| | Eric Drake | 20 | Lynn Umbach |
| | Ray Brunner | 21 | David Watson |
| 09 | Norah Brown | 22 | Heidi Foster |
| | Sean Kroft | | Sue Ann Cowin |
| 10 | Christine Kelly | | Ian Wilson |
| | Genna Leigh Bird | 23 | Cheryl Jackym |
| | Robert Townley | | Gretchen Kinnell |
| 11 | Alan Hale | 24 | Alexandra Smith |
| | Dorothy Montgomery | 26 | Betsy Cherundolo |
| | Karen Leonard | | Sylvia Black |
| | Sharon Krause | | Tammy Leonard |
| 12 | Andrew Lasda | 27 | Andrew O'Leary |
| | Erica Gongloff | | Norman Wallace |
| | Kong Phommaniraj | | Winona Hartman |
| 14 | David Hall | 28 | Nathan Heilmann |
| | Kevin Morgan | 30 | Richard Lewis |
| 15 | Luke Gongloff | | |
| | Dawn Daggett | | |
| | Margaret Martin | | |



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City Wide Youth Group 2016

Save the following dates for some exciting activities for youth in Grades 7-12:

Schedule:

- Mar. 6 Easter Cards 6 pm at church
- Mar. 13 No meeting
- Mar. 20 Serve meal at Brown Memorial UMC 2 pm
- Mar. 27 Easter – No meeting

If you have any questions, please call:
Diane Dermody or Laura Mattice

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Kits for Church World Service

From: Matthew Stevens, Director of Congregational Giving
Church World Service

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your dedication to providing Kits for Church World Service. Last year, you helped to provide CWS Kits to people throughout the world. Thanks to you, young Gabrielle received a CWS School Kit on her first day of school. You helped Thomas and his family clean up after a flood by providing a CWS Emergency Cleanup Bucket. Jane was able to give her children a bath because you provided CWS Hygiene Kits. You have shared God’s grace with people in their time of need, making a difference in their lives.



Information included in this letter:

- 1) Requests for Baby Care Kits have decreased, so they have a generous supply on hand currently. If we have Baby Care Kits ready to go, they will accept them, but don't make any new ones!
- 2) Requirements for School Kits, Hygiene Kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets were included in the letter (in case you've forgotten the necessary items to complete a kit).
- 3) The nearest year-round Kit Depot (drop-off site) to Bellevue Heights is King of Kings Lutheran Church, 8278 Oswego Road, Liverpool – (315) 622-2077 – Contact person: Joan Boyle, kingofkingsny@gmail.com.
- 4) All items must be new. No additional items should be added to the kits. Please do not include personal notes, artwork, checks or cash. Please do not decorate your Kits and components with religious or governmental symbols.

All of this information is in the "Office" mailbox in the narthex if someone wants to take charge!!

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH:

Mar. 6 – 4th Sunday in Lent: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mar. 13 – 5th Sunday in Lent: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Mar. 20 – Passion/Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms: Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Mar. 24 – Holy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10); Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35



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Mar. 27 – Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 13-24; 1 Cor. 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

March	Christians in Action
April	Friends in Faith and Fellowship
May	Choir
June	Finance
July/August	Congregation Signups
September	Church Council
October	Youth Group
November	Worship
December	United Methodist Women
January	Trustees
February	Staff Parish

USHERS FOR MARCH:

Head Usher – Jim Morgan

Regular Ushers: Steve Mattice, Ozzie Mocete, Andy Monds

GREETER:

Dawn Daggett



THINK SPRING” (and put this concert on your calendar)

Syracuse Vocal Ensemble will present “Flora & Fauna” on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 7:30 pm at First Unitarian Universalist Society, 109 Waring Road, Syracuse, and on Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 3:00 pm at Park Central Presbyterian Church, 504 East Fayette Street, Syracuse.

Featured music includes Lauridsen – *Les Chansons des Roses*; Whitacre- *Animal Crackers*; Corigliano – *Fern Hill*; Swingle – *Flight of the Bumble Bee* and Lennon/McCartney – *Blackbird*.

Ticket prices are Adults \$20, Seniors \$18, Students \$5, Children 12 and under free. For more information see Sandy Murphy or go to [www.Syracuse Vocal Ensemble.org](http://www.SyracuseVocalEnsemble.org) or call 315-715-5212.

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FREE CONCERTS

Temple Concord proudly presents the 2015-16 **Regina F. Goldenberg Cultural Series**, a monthly series of FREE concerts performed at Temple Concord, 910 Madison Street, Syracuse - open to everyone! All performances unless otherwise noted are on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Free parking in the Temple lot, on the street, or 1200 E. Genesee St. Medical Building lot.

March 13, 2016 (Sunday at 2 pm) – **Syracuse Pops Chorus** – The Syracuse Pops Chorus, Inc. was started by Lou Lemos twelve years ago as the Syracuse Symphony Pops Chorus. This 125 member, volunteer chorus performs concerts throughout the Central New York area, including several each year with Symphoria. Repertoire includes American Songbook, Broadway, and more!

April 12, 2016 – **Syracuse City Ballet** – Artists from Central New York’s premiere professional ballet company will perform dances from the classical repertoire as well as some more modern dance selections.



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



Congratulations to:

Cathy and Franklin Waelde	3/14/1981
Sandra and Richard Schmidt	3/24/1973

Please notify the church office, either by email or phone, of any necessary changes.

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Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The January, February and March meetings have been cancelled because many of our attendees are "Snowbirds" and are in Florida or some other warm place. It didn't seem fair for the speaker to have to come out in the cold at an early hour for such a sparse audience!! Next breakfast date TBA.

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SPAGHETTI DINNER & AUCTION

A big thank you to all who attended the UMW spaghetti dinner and auction on Saturday, February 27th. Special thanks to all who helped make the evening a success: Dottie Montgomery, who prepared the delicious dinner; Ann Barnes, who played music during the dinner; our auctioneers, Mike Streissguth, Steve Mattice and Ann Barnes; donors of the items and services auctioned off; our bidders and buyers, and members of the Circle of Concern, who hosted the event. The money raised is given as love gifts to our Bellevue Heights' students going on to higher education. You all warmed up another cold February night with your cheerful fellowship!