

# THE MESSENGER

## *A Pastor's Ponderings*

I have found that the arrival of spring often feels like the arrival of new life.

Spring with its warm, gentle breeze comes and breathes a new spirit into my lungs. With the melting of winter, so melts away my apathy and my lagging zeal. Spring is like the slow dawning of light upon my hibernating heart. Spring wakes me up and says 'Go Forth!'

I know that it is spring when I am motivated to organize, clean and tidy. I rejoice when I start to get antsy and suddenly am compelled to get my life back into some semblance of order.

This sentiment is shared by the author of the Song of Songs. In chapter 2 beginning in verse eleven,

A Light exists in Spring  
Not present on the Year  
At any other period -  
When March is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad  
On Solitary Fields  
That Science cannot overtake  
But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn,  
It shows the furthest Tree  
Upon the furthest Slope you know  
It almost speaks to you.

Then as Horizons step  
Or Noons report away  
Without the Formula of sound  
It passes and we stay -

A quality of loss  
Affecting our Content  
As Trade had suddenly encroached  
Upon a Sacrament

they write: "for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance."

Emily Dickinson in her 1834 poem "A Light exists in Spring" (which you can find in the center panel), also speaks about how the arrival of spring often has an enlightening effect upon the soul.

I pray that the arrival of spring has or will re-energize you for this next season of your life.

*Sincerely Yours in Christ,*

***Rev. Christopher J. McCloskey***

## Holy Week 2025



### *Maundy Thursday*

April 17<sup>th</sup>

Service of Communion and Contemplation at 7:00pm

### *Good Friday*

April 18<sup>th</sup>

Service of Shadow at 7:00pm

### *Easter Sunday*

April 20<sup>th</sup>

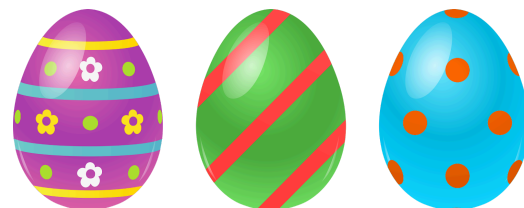
6:00am, 8:00am and 10:00am Services

## Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:15am**

If participating in the egg hunt, please bring **12 filled eggs per child**. Kids will be provided a bag to decorate while the eggs are being hidden. If you have any questions please contact Diana Ackner: [education@firstreformedscotia.org](mailto:education@firstreformedscotia.org).



## Spring Clean-up Day!

The year's Spring Clean-up Day has been set for **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am-12:00pm**. If you are looking to get outside for some fresh air and exercise, you can help take care of the church grounds that we have been entrusted with and help us look our best for Easter. We have a number of tasks to do including: raking any

leaves left over from fall and prepping our lawns for summer mowing; setting out hose reels; picking up garbage; trimming shrubs & vines. Please bring gloves and a rake or a leaf blower. We will have coffee and donuts set up outside on a table at the Brink hall entrance.

## Conversation Project Challenge

At the Conversation Project workshop on advanced directives, Dr. George Giokas challenged our congregation to “have the conversation, complete the necessary paperwork, and share with the appropriate people in your life.” Let’s accept that challenge!

The Congregational Care Council and the Health and Wellness Ministry launched the Conversation Project this past September. Our hope was to provide tools that make it easier to initiate conversations about end-of-life issues and encourage people to take action. Workshops have been offered to help you organize your paperwork, understand advanced directives, think about your memorial service, and begin to write an obituary. Resources and paperwork to aid in your conversation are available on the rack across from the church office.

**Here is the challenge: share your end-of-life wishes with your family by the end of this summer.** Our goal is to have **25 people submit their partially or completed Memorial Service form** to the Church office by September. These can be heart-rending and difficult conversations. Ultimately, they are good for the individual and good for the family. It is better to start the discussion – even if it involves frequent conversations over time – than to leave your wishes unspoken.

## A Big Thank you!

Thank you to all who volunteered, baked cakes, bought cakes and ate spaghetti at our Fowler spaghetti dinner fundraiser! We raised approximately \$2800 to help kids to go to camp and experience a god filled community of faith and fun!



### St. Pauly Textile Shed

In 2024 our Clothing Shed collected 26,333 pounds of clothing. There was enough to clothe an estimated 4,906 people all over the world. Based on this volume of clothing, we received a total of \$1,065.00.

## Community Lunch Update by Mark Holley

The grab and go lunch on March 5th had 50 bag lunches go out. We had turkey noodle soup, sandwiches, fruit cups and Vicky's delicious cookies (thanks Vicky!). We had a giving table and many items were given out to our guests. Thanks to Carol, Cindy, Linda and Deb who took great care of our guests!



The Spaghetti dinner was on March 15th and the guests were given tickets to attend. They really seemed to enjoy the meal. We have distributed 6,699 meals since the program's inception. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this meal successful!

## April Mission of the Month: Community Lunch Program

April's Mission Of The Month is The Community Lunch Program. This program has been running for seven years. It consists of a sit down luncheon on the last Saturday of each month along with a bagged Grab And Go lunch on the second Wednesdays. There is a dedicated group of volunteers to assist with the meals of which Mark Holley is the coordinator. This valued mission offers these meals at no cost to our guests who look forward to their time here at First Reformed. Through Mark Holley's vision to feed the people of our community facing challenging times, the Community Luncheon offers a comfort meal, support and encouragement to our neighbors. The program relies on the proceeds of fundraising along with the generous donations from people like you in order to function. Please consider supporting the Community Luncheon program as this month's Mission Of The Month. We sincerely thank you for all you have done and continue to do to support this valued and important mission here at First Reformed.

## Backpack Program Update



Families in the Scotia-Glenville area continue to need food and are very grateful for the assistance they receive from our Backpack Program and distributions before the school vacations. However, another pressing need is for personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies that are not available through the SNAP program.

We hope to include these items in the April food distribution. These include things such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, soap or body wash, laundry and dish detergents, and paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels. If you can contribute these items, you will find a box in the Brink Hall lobby and in the narthex.

Also, the Middle School student council will be conducting a drive to collect these items to supplement our efforts!



Spring has arrived and with it comes three free health and wellness opportunities! Be sure to check these programs out!

Date & Time	Offering	Where
<p><b>April 8,</b> Tuesday 12-1 pm</p>	<p><b>County Naloxone Training</b></p>	<p>Hon. Karen B. Johnson Central Library; McChesney Room; 99 Clinton St. Schenectady 12305 (518) 388-4500</p>
<p><b>April 22,</b> Tuesday 5:00p - 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Preparing for Emergencies</b> Age Group: Teen &amp; Tween, Adult <b>Reservation Required</b> Event Details: Experts from the New York National Guard and the NYS Offices of Emergency Management and Fire Prevention and Control will lead this introduction on how to respond to a natural or human-caused disaster. <b>NOTE:</b> This program is designed for children and accompanying adults. Please plan to attend and be engaged with your child.</p>	<p>Hon. Karen B. Johnson Central Library; McChesney Room; 99 Clinton St. Schenectady 12305 Use library web site <a href="http://scpl.com">scpl.com</a> or call (518) 388-4500 to register.</p>
<p><b>April 26,</b> Saturday 8am-1pm</p>	<p><b>2025 Tools for Caregivers</b> Attendance is free, but <b>registration is required.</b> Register online or by email/phone to <a href="mailto:crcaregivercoalition@gmail.com">crcaregivercoalition@gmail.com</a> or 518-250-6867. See the flyer on the bulletin boards for more info.</p>	<p>Hudson Valley Community College; Bulmer Communications Center, 80 Vandenburg Avenue, Troy, NY 12180</p>

## **Faith Formation**

**April 6** - Faith formation for K-12th grade w/Miss Diana  
*Lent 5 - Zacchaeus story*

**April 13** - Family/Intergenerational learning experience  
*Palm Sunday & Easter Egg Hunt*  
*Please note Youth will be singing in worship*

**April 20** - No Faith Formation - Happy Easter!!!!

**April 27** - Faith formation for K-12th grades

## **LifeSong's Supported Employment and Day Habilitation Services**

provides ongoing support to adults with special needs for continued success. Dedicated professionals and caring staff allow individuals person-centered care and mentoring. Participation in these community-based supports helps to develop a greater social awareness, inspires a desirable work ethic and increases personal independence. We are so very fortunate to have Lifesong groups coming to our church building twice a week to help with various tasks around the building and the office. This is a great opportunity for them and for us; a win win situation! Want to know more about Lifesongs? See The Ackners. Grace is in this wonderful program and is very happy there.

## **CROP WALK 2025**

This year our Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, May 4th**. Registration will begin at noon, and the Opening Ceremony will start at 1 pm, with the Walk to follow! This year we will be walking at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish School, 1801 Union St. Schenectady. The website is live and you can register and begin your fundraising today!



You can register individually or with the FRCS team. Need more info? Contact Miss Diana [education@firstreformedscotia.org](mailto:education@firstreformedscotia.org)

Ending hunger One Step at a Time! “Our faith motivates us in this work to end hunger. And while it is difficult to see or imagine a world without hunger in our lifetime, we trust this is the work to which God has called us. And we can live in hope,.. the conviction of things not seen..with God all things are possible.” - Bread for the World



# Why Screen Free?

What can you do when you don't have a phone in your hand?

**Traverse a wire across a poisonous peanut butter pit.**

**Paddle a kayak to a secluded mountain lake.**

**Build an Adirondack chair, paint a picture, or spike a volleyball.**

**Hold hands in a circle, pick up a chicken, or carry a canoe.**



**There are many reasons to leave your phone at home while you are at Fowler. But maybe the best reason is so that you can be fully present at a beautiful camp surrounded by friends and having the best week of your summer.**

Camp Fowler is aware of the trust that parents put in us to care for their children and will reach out if there is an emergency. In the meantime, we encourage parents & family to write letters to their camper giving them something special they can hold in their hands:  
Camp Fowler, "camper's name/week #", PO Box 207, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108



**Give us a shout with any questions or concerns!**

**Administratore@campfowler.org**

**(518) 631-6789**

**Register your child for the best week of their summer!**



April Anniversaries:

**Jerry and Tina Haldeman 16**  
**Jeff and Kathy Reynolds 17**  
**Sue and Al Fedak 24**  
**Sara and Aaron Madison 26**

April Birthdays:

**Judson Hoffman 3**  
**Linda Lewis 6**  
**Paul Rooney 11**  
**Helen Graber 13**  
**Rachel Rosenberg 16**  
**Katherine Makrin 18**  
**Kim Rosenberg 20**  
**Kathe Sheehan 25**  
**Sky Faulkner 30**

**Jeff Reynolds 4**  
**Seneca Willoughby 7**  
**Allison Beauchemin 12**  
**Walter Pfuntner III 14**  
**Alena Willoughby 17**  
**Bob Baldwin 20**  
**Cheyenne Willoughby 22**  
**Jane Lansing 27**  
**Beth Hoffman 30**  
**Cynthia Tygert 30**

**Evelyn Torelli 4**  
**Amiee Warfield 9**  
**Peg Foster 13**  
**Bill Eberle 15**  
**Jordan Zenner 17**  
**Nancy Pfuntner 20**  
**Ethan Schalekamp 23**  
**Ashley Zappone 29**  
**Emily Taft 30**

**Address Service Requested**

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**Scotia, NY 12302**  
**(518) 370-4751**