

MARCH 2019

“Being Spirit Filled Worshippers”

As we move into March I want to continue in our study in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. In particular, this article will spend some time reflecting upon verses 18 through 20 of Ephesians 5, which draws our attention to the topic of worship – an always fitting topic but perhaps even more so as we move into Lent and toward Holy Week with its emphasis upon the culmination of Christ’s mission while on earth.

But before beginning my comments on those verses I want to remind you to keep your eyes open for our new weekly E-news (To be sent out by mid-day Wednesday – Lord willing and computer working!) as it will contain information about our upcoming events for Lent as well as occasional reflections that arise from our sermon series on “The Mission of the Church”.

But for now, onward with our examination of Ephesians 5:18-20. And before we begin examining that verse let’s read it within its immediate context, verses 15-20, where Paul wrote:

“Be very careful, then, how you live -- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

As many of you know, several years ago Jen and I lived in north-central Florida, where I served as the associate pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Lake City Florida. While we lived there Jen’s parents came down for an occasional visit. During one of those visits we decided to spend a few days at Disney World. And I noticed that the entire adventure was filled with decisions of worth. First you get to the main gate and see the prices. You can’t help but ask yourself -- is it worth the money (And that was some 20 years ago. I can’t imagine what prices are today!)? Then you get in a line for a ride -- you see all the people in front of you, and you ask -- is it worth the time? You soon discover that time

115 Winter Street

Troy, NY 12180

518-283-2420

www.thirdchurchtroy.org

office@thirdchurchtroy.org

 ThirdChurchTroy

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A community of Christ  
-followers where,

The Head of the Church  
is...

The Lord Jesus Christ

The Ministers of the  
Church are...  
Every Believer

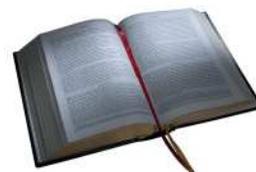
The Passion of the  
Church is...  
to be Spirit empowered  
ministers of  
reconciliation to God,  
inviting all people to  
faith in Christ Jesus  
our Lord and  
to holiness of life.

~~~~~  
Our Mission:

To Love our God and
Neighbor

To Proclaim the Gospel
through Word and Deed

To Make Disciples of
Jesus the Christ



that time doesn't matter to a child who wants to ride Dumbo. Before you know it, it is time to eat. You suspect the prices will be steep but you know you're in trouble when you read -- hamburger, fries and a coke, all this can be yours for three easy payments of . . . This is where grandparents come in handy!

Likewise worship is about the ascribing of worth.

Worship is something we do every day in most every aspect of our lives. In fact, we even set aside one special day each year to ascribe worth to those we love. We call it Valentine's day. And in case you are uncertain of how to express your appreciation for the one you love, the merchants are more than willing to offer suggestions, like: a German Shepard(Okay maybe that's not on the top of the list, but if you're interested I know a great rescue organization.)!

We ascribe worth to people, places and things every day of our lives.

Worship is the ascribing of worth.

And as Christians we're called to ascribe ultimate worth to God, for God alone is worthy of our worship.

Now, as we consider our passage for this newsletter, we encounter a command, the command to "be filled with the Spirit" -- to open our lives to the continual filling of the Spirit of God. And, as Paul stated in a parallel command in Colossians chapter 3, we learn that being filled with the Spirit involves letting the word of Christ dwell in us (Col 3:16). And so, we're to yield our lives to God who leads, guides, nurtures and comforts our spirits through His word and Spirit.

After the command to be filled with the Spirit, Paul presented some areas that clarify how this filling with the Spirit is evidenced and lived out. In this newsletter I want to focus upon one of those areas, the area of worship.

And so, let's look at Ephesians 5:18-20 from the perspective of worship -- the ascribing of worth to God. Let's reflect upon the what, who, why, and how of worship.

Christian worship -- the gathering together of a community of faith to ascribe worth to God -- grew out of the practice of the Israelites, who, in thankfulness for their deliverance from bondage to the Egyptians, brought sacrifices to God -- first at the Tent of Meeting in the desert, and later at the Temple in Jerusalem. And an offering was made by the people that recognized God's holiness, their sinfulness, and their need for God -- an offering which expressed their gratitude to God.

Now, we're not to come to the church bringing grain offerings and lambs to burn for sacrifice (Although if you want to barbeque some steaks for fellowship time I won't complain☺!) since Christ was the perfect, sufficient and final "sacrifice" on our behalf. Yet, we are to come bringing a different type of offering and sacrifice -- the offering of a heart humbled before God, and the sacrifice of a life poured out to God -- offerings and sacrifices that together testify of God's worth to us.

Moreover, as we look at Ephesians 5:18-20, we observe that our worship is to be offered to the triune God -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We worship God the Father, the author of all of life and giver of every good and perfect gift. And we worship “through” God the Son, who suffered and died for us, and rose again from the dead, that through faith in Jesus, we might have new life with our Father. And we worship “by means of” God the Holy Spirit, who works in us to transform our acts of service and worship into something pleasing in the sight of our Father.

And so, we worship one God -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And, it’s essential that we know this God to whom we offer our worship, after all, our God is a jealous God who will not give to another the glory He alone is due.

It is important to know to whom it is that we are giving our worship, but it’s also vital to know why we worship this God. As Christians, we worship God because we’re commanded to do so, and because we’re created to do so.

When we worship God we honor God with our obedience, for God commands that we must have no other gods before Him.

And when we worship God we satisfy the deepest needs of our own heart and soul, for, to worship our Creator God is to be truly human -- is to fulfill that for which we were principally created. Indeed, worship is to our spirits what breathing is to our bodies. As Blaise Pascal has been quoted as saying, “There’s a God shaped vacuum inside all of us which only God can fill.” And as Augustine stated of God, “You have created us for Yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.”

And so, when we worship God we not only recognize and ascribe to God the worth God is due, but we fill up that space in us with the very One for whom we long, and, to whom we belong.

Christians worship God because we’re commanded to, and because we’re created to.

And, we worship God because, by God’s grace, we’re compelled to.

When one person loves another – whether a spouse, a child, or a friend – the offerings of praise and adoration for that person come naturally and freely. We don’t feel foolish expressing our devotion to the one we love. We don’t question the value of that person, wondering if they deserve to be loved. And we don’t think they’re arrogant when they receive our expressions of praise. Rather, we ascribe worth to one whom we love because we believe that person deserves our adoration of them. And so, in a sense, our love compels us to ascribe worth to those we love – it’s the very thing we desire to do!

The God who created us in His image, who purchased our life through the death of His Son, and who pours out His Holy Spirit upon us to bring us into communion with Him, is deserving of greater praise and devotion than that offered to the most cherished human being.

And so, we worship God because He is God and He alone commands and deserves our worship. And we worship God because we have been created to worship God. And,

we worship God because His love for us grows in us a love for Him which in turn compels us to respond to Him in worship.

But, knowing what worship is, who we're to worship, and why, still leaves the question of how? How are we to worship God? Are there particular ways and methods that are most appropriate for the worship of God? Should we stand to sing and kneel to pray? Should we dance in the isles, raise our hands, clap, and shout? Should we sing praise choruses, or hymns? And which musical instruments are appropriate for worship?

These are important questions. However, they ought not to be addressed without first addressing the more fundamental issue regarding our worship of God. And that issue concerns one's attitude -- because how one behaves in most any situation is largely determined by one's attitude in that situation.

Worship is no exception.

And so the "how" of worship has more to do with our attitude than any particular actions. Because, our attitude -- before, during and after worship -- not only affects the quality of the worship we offer to God, our attitude also affects our ability to receive what God would like to give us through our worship of Him. And, the proper attitude for a Christian is an attitude of gratitude -- an attitude of thanksgiving that flows from a person who is Spirit-filled and Spirit-directed.

In turn, our passage commands Christians to be filled with the Spirit.

Moreover, this command calls for a continual filling, each and every day -- a filling that's initiated by the Holy Spirit (since only God can do the filling, even as He enables all that He commands) and so influences our lives and our love for God that it's as if we become "intoxicated" with God.

We're to be so influenced by the Spirit of God: that our will becomes to do the will of God; that our passion becomes to please God; and, that our praise and worship become an act of thanksgiving to God.

Spirit-filled worship is worship that overflows with thanksgiving. And so, when we gather to worship we ought always to gather in an attitude of thanksgiving to God, not because life is always pleasant (sometimes it's painful and cruel) but because we have a loving God who promises to be with us always, and who will work all things for good for those who love Him.

Moreover, when we enter worship with an attitude of gratitude, we're more open to what God has to reveal to us during that time of worship.

And this raises an issue about worship that I think is important to address.

Over the years I've heard many comments about worship. Some deservedly positive and some deservedly negative. But there's one comment that causes me to bite my tongue until my impulse to react subsides. I am really bothered whenever I hear someone say, "I got nothing out of worship." This comment concerns me because, obviously, I want everyone to "get" something out of worship in the sense that I want them to encounter God in such a way that they're moved in body, mind and spirit to love God

more deeply, and renewed in passion to live more wholly for Jesus! But even more, this comment concerns me because it often indicates that that individual came to worship with an improper understanding of worship, and, usually, a wrong attitude. Most likely that person came thinking that worship was about them-and-their-needs instead of about God-and-His-commands. Too often many of us fall into the trap of thinking worship is about us -- about how it makes us feel. In fact perhaps the greatest obstacle to “getting something out of worship” is the sin presence of “I” in the worship experience.

Now, don't get me wrong, I do believe that it's important that those of us who plan the worship service do our best to make it “relevant” to life. (I use the term “relevant” because of its popular use as meaning “engaging, interesting and applicable”. The truth is God's Word is **never not relevant**! It's our hardness of heart that makes any reading or hearing of it come across as irrelevant!) Moreover, it's true that we all have needs, and God desires to minister to our deepest needs through our worship of God. But such can only really occur when we, the worshippers, choose to take our eyes off of self and turn them upon God, for the right worship of God is God-centered worship.

And so we're commanded to be filled with the Spirit, even and most especially, as we gather to worship, because: Spirit-filled worshippers understand that worship is not about what “I” want but about what God deserves; and, Spirit-filled worshippers come into God's presence with a joy that wells up from deep within our soul so that we desire to hear God's Word, and hunger for God's Word to speak to us; and, Spirit-filled worshippers come with hearts open and ready to receive a blessing through their worship knowing that that blessing flows from God to us, often through fellow believers, but always as a fruit of our active worship of God.

As a result, Spirit-filled worshippers never leave the worship experience the same as when we entered -- because it's impossible to meet with a holy God and not be changed! (Think Moses in the Tent of Meeting. See Exodus 34:33-35)

And so, Spirit-filled worshippers will consider what they put into a worship service before they critique what they get out of it. After all, worship isn't a passive event. Those up front -- whether the choir, the musicians, the worship leader or the pastor -- are not performers. And the rest of those gathered for worship are not there to sit back and watch. All present are to be active participants!

And when we participate with humble, receptive, surrendered hearts, such Spirit-filled worshippers leave worship asking not “What did I get from worship?” but “What did I add to the worship experience?” Did I listen when it was time to listen, and pray when it was time to pray? Did I sing with joy, offering up the voice God gave to me in prayerful song – even as Paul exhorts us to do in this letter? Did I glorify God?

And that raises a whole other issue.

In almost every church there are some people who decide that they will not participate in the singing of the hymns or songs. And they do so for a variety of reasons.

For example: some say they don't like to sing; others claim they can't sing; others, refrain because they're embarrassed to be heard singing; still others say they don't like "that kind of music". But we need to note that our passage doesn't leave the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as an option, as if going to worship were like dining at a buffet, where we could pick and choose those things in a service that please us – that we want to partake of.

The singing of praise to God is a vital part of worship. Music moves our spirits and helps us to commune with God. And so, unless we're physically incapable of singing -- note I didn't say incapable of sounding good, but unable to sing -- then by refusing to sing we're denying God the worship due Him. By refusing to sing we're saying to God that what we feel like doing or not doing is more important than what God asks us to do. But even more, by refusing to participate in the singing we're missing the blessing that God desires to bring to us as we offer ourselves in song, together, in community, with family.

Now anyone who stands near me during worship knows that I'm not speaking as one who sings well (This is where you remain silent, Sal!). But as a Priest once told me, "Sing with all your heart because God tells you to sing to Him, and because it's good for your soul. And don't worry about how you sound. After all, God gave you your voice, so give it back to Him, and if God doesn't like it, He can change it!"

So, let the music help lift you into God's presence. Sing out with joy, for you are among family. And who knows, perhaps the sound of your singing may stimulate the prayer life of those around you ☺!

But above all, regardless of what flows from your lips, be sure to sing out in your heart to the Lord, for Spirit-filled worshippers sing from their heart!

Moreover, Spirit-filled worshippers seek to allow our lives to be transformed through the worship experience, so that our lives might be more honoring to God in the coming week than they were in the week gone by.

But, for such deep transformation to occur, Spirit-filled worshippers realize that worship takes work. And so, worship that flows from an attitude of gratitude requires: that we participate in worship, opening ourselves to the working of God's Spirit; that we practice in our lives each day that which we practice in our worship on Sunday -- the showing forth of love, peace, forgiveness, acceptance and thankfulness; and, that we plan and prepare for the corporate worship experience.

I will say it again, Spirit-directed worshippers plan and prepare for the worship experience!

Consider the following scenario. It's Thursday night. Some friends invite you to join them for dinner but you know how it goes and how a dinner turns into a late night endeavor that will wipe you out the next day. You have a big presentation before our boss at 8:00 am sharp, and she expects you to be on the top of your game. What do you do? We all know the answer, you decline the invitation because a lot is at stake if you are not prepared for the meeting.

Now, let's change the details a little. It's Saturday night. Some friends invite you to go with them to a party but you know it means you'll get home late, and will have a hard time getting up, going and staying focused during worship the next morning. What do you do? Sadly, we know that answer as well. For all too many, worship before God just isn't as important as a presentation before our boss, or a big exam, or, an evening with friends. In other words, although we dare not say it, meeting God is just not that big of a deal for all too many Christians, after all, He's only the Creator of the universe who sent His Son to die for our sins and who wants to bless us with His unconditional love for all eternity (That's sarcasm in case you missed it.)!

We know God commands us to worship Him. And we claim we want to please God. But do we prepare ourselves before worship so that we can give our best during worship? Do we prepare our spirits by praying for our worship experience -- even before Sunday morning comes? Do we prepare our hearts by living in godliness throughout the week, and by seeking to be reconciled to those who hurt us or those whom we hurt -- so that nothing interferes with our worship of God? Do we prepare our bodies by getting the rest we need so that we will be awake and alert throughout our time of worship? Do we prepare our minds throughout the week by avoiding those things that draw our thoughts into places they should not go, and instead by filling our minds with God's Word? And, do we wisely arrange our schedules so that we don't get up Sunday morning and frantically race about the house in such frenzy that no one in the household feels very worshipful by the time we make it to church?

We make time for the things we value. We prepare for things that are important to us. Yet too often we walk into worship as if we didn't know Sunday was coming. And we think that a 30 second prayer before worship will get us ready to meet with a holy and majestic God during worship! And we wonder why "we get nothing out of worship"!

Let me suggest that if we would pour more energy and planning into our worship preparation we would experience greater benefit from our worship experience!

God commands that we worship Him. God gives His Spirit that we may worship Him. And God asks us to come ready to worship Him -- to come as people filled with the Spirit and ready to commune with God -- for it is such worship that God blesses.

In Ephesians 5:18-20, Paul shows us that true worship is Father-directed, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled. Paul shows us that acceptable worship is worship with an attitude of gratitude to God in all things -- an attitude that wells up from the depths of our hearts and pours forth, with passion, in songs of praise and adoration.

And, Paul challenges us that God-honoring-worship is worship: we prepare for before we arrive; we participate in while we are here; and, we practice in our lives when we leave the service.

And God gives us reason to worship Him for God has shown us that He loved us enough to send His very best, His only begotten Son -- Jesus the Christ – to give His life for us and for our salvation.

Therefore, it's only fitting that when we gather to worship our loving God, we follow the advice of the makers of those Hallmark cards, and we, too, care enough about God, to give our very best.

God's peace,

Pastor John



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A message from The Community Hospice of Rensselaer County

Please check cabinets, closets, basements and attics – we need vases for our flower program! Small vases only please – the floral arrangements are placed on patient's bed side tables and there isn't a lot of room; think mason jar size. We send out about 40 arrangements a week – that's a lot of vases. Thank you in advance for your help!

Vases may be brought to the church office. Pat Gilmaier will deliver them to the Rensselaer Hospice Office. The flower program is ongoing and so the vases can be continually donated. Thank you.

Remember in Prayer...

Our Shut-ins at home:

Tillie Herman, Marcella Goard, Jan and John Pedersen, Hazel Landry

At the Eddy: Dot Multunas, Edna Wells

Those dealing with health issues:

Stan Bentley, Kelly Valerio

Our Church:

Pastor John and the Session

Our Community:

Those who don't know the Lord
Those dealing with financial difficulties
That our schools would be places of safety

Our World:

Missionaries serving around the world
Open doors for sharing the Gospel message
Persecuted Christians around the world

Our college students:

Brian Giddings (Roger Williams)
Joshua Multunas (Gordon Conwell)
Alida Scechitano (Boston College)
Natalie Scechitano (Houghton)
Angelina Solomon (SUNY Albany)

Help Fill the Shelves at Hope 7's Food Pantry!

Hope 7's food pantry serves families in need right here in our own community. The need is great and has been growing every year!

During the month of March we will be collecting macaroni and cheese.



Donations of other non-perishable food items will also be accepted.



Our next Sunday school class will be held **March 17th** following the worship service.

The Benevolence Fund

In your box of offering envelopes there are envelopes marked "Benevolence." Any money collected from these envelopes goes to support the work of the Inward Ministry Committee as they seek to minister to the members and friends of Third Church. This ministry covers a variety of things:

- Visits to homes, nursing homes, and hospitals.
- Providing meals and other assistance when needed.
- Hosting luncheons during fellowship time throughout the year.
- The card ministry
- Gifts to our shut-ins and college students for the holidays.
- Providing supplies for fellowship time
- Hosting receptions after a funeral service
- Gifts and cards to mark special occasions such as births, graduations, etc.

Besides donations to the Benevolence Fund, there are several ways that you can support the work of the Inward Ministry Committee. You can:

- Pray for the committee and their ministry
- Keep them informed of any needs that you know of within our church family
- Help with the card ministry
- Be part of a team that visits and/or calls our shut-ins.

Your generous donations to the Benevolence Fund are greatly appreciated and they enable us to minister to our faith family in a variety of ways.

**Serving at the Capital City Rescue Mission
April 20th**

We have the privilege to minister to those in need by helping to serve the evening meal at the Capital City Rescue Mission. We will meet at the church around 5:00 and carpool or you can meet us at the Mission around 5:30. Serving involves ensuring the tables are set for dinner, serving the meal, and cleaning up the tables afterwards. If you can help please speak with Andy Miller or Rob Jensen.



**Horizon's International Student
Game Night
April 6th**

from 4:00-9:00 PM



We will have the privilege of hosting a game night for International Students and their friendship partners on April 6th. There will be snacks and time to play games throughout the afternoon. Then we will have pizza and end the night by watching a movie that presents the gospel message. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with individuals from all around the world. Everyone is encouraged to come and join in the fun for all or just part of the evening. If you can help with set up, clean up, or serving snacks please speak with Pastor John or Sue Laz.



We are charged in Scripture to take the Gospel message into the whole world. In this case, the world is coming to us!!

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

- March 10th "Church Mission"
- March 17th "What is the Gospel?"
- March 24th "Having a Missionary Mindset"
- March 31st "Promoting the Gospel through Prayer"
- April 7th "Promoting the Gospel through Giving"
- April 14th "Promoting the Gospel through Service"
- April 21st "Promoting the Gospel through Worship"
- April 28th "The Message We Believe, Live and are to Proclaim"

Mission Updates

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" 1 Peter 4:10

Your giving to Third Church enables us to support many varied ministries, both locally and around the world. The funds given and the prayers offered for our various mission partners are greatly appreciated and we wanted to share some of the thoughts and comments we have received from those we support.

From Perry Jones (Capital City Rescue Mission) – "Your gift not only provides physical nourishment, you also help fill the emptiness of our city's homeless and hungry neighbors by offering spiritual hope. Thank you dear friends at 3rd Pres. We love you in Christ. Many blessings to you all."

From Peter Halder (Bangladesh YFC) – "We trust you had a great Christmas and New Year celebration. During this time I was thinking and praying for you. We gave thanks to the Father for His grace, blessings, and friends like you who are so sincere and committed to His mission around the world. Your kind partnership is making a difference in the life of teens, youth, their families and communities around the country."

Ministry Opportunities

Video Techs are responsible for projecting the words to the songs on the screen during worship. Everything is pre-programmed for you. You simply need to pay attention during songs and press the space bar on a keyboard to advance to the next screen (really – that’s all there is to it!)

Audio Techs are responsible for monitoring the sound in the sanctuary and adjusting microphones as needed.

If you are interested in serving in our A/V ministry or if you want more information please speak with Sal Sceccitano.

Nursery Attendants are needed to watch little ones in the nursery while their parents are in worship (you must be at least 11 years old). You would be part of a two-person team and would need to be in the nursery by 10:20. There is a speaker in the nursery so that you can still listen to the worship service. If you would like to be a part of the nursery ministry please speak with Sue Laz.

Lawn Mowers will be needed soon to help keep the church lawn looking nice during the spring and summer months. If you like being outside...this is for you!! If interested please speak with Andy Miller or Rob Jensen.

General Financial Update for January

	Year to Date	January
Total Income	\$ 10,003.00	\$ 10,003.00
Total Expenses	\$ 15,052.26	\$ 15,412.11
Difference	\$ (5,049.26)	\$ (5,409.11)

2019 Per Capita

The 2019 Per Capita apportionment is \$43.00 per member. If you would like to help offset this cost, please use the blue envelope in your offering envelope box. Thank you.

Bible Quiz for March 2019

Since our Lenten soup suppers will involve a study on the “Gospel of Mark” our Bible Quiz questions for this month and next will come from that Gospel.

1. True or False: Mark’s Gospel was the last of the four Gospels to be composed. (Bonus: If not when was it written in comparison to the others: 1st, 2nd, or 3rd?)
2. True or False: Of all the apostles, Mark focused upon the words and actions of Peter the most.
3. True or False: Mark worked hard to present a positive impression of Peter throughout his Gospel.
4. True or False: Mark’s Gospel is considered to be one of the three synoptic Gospels. (Bonus: Can you name the three?)
5. True or False: Mark’s Gospel is the shortest Gospel in terms of chapters but not in terms of the number of verses. (Bonus: Which book of the New Testament contains the most verses?)
6. True or False: Mark’s Gospel opens with a declaration that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God.
7. Fill in the blanks: Jesus proclaimed the good news of God saying, “The time has come. The kingdom of God is _____. _____ and believe the good news!”
8. Fill in the blanks: Jesus declared, “The Son of Man did not come _____, but to _____, and to give His life as a _____ for many.”
9. True or False: Mark refers to Jesus as the “Son of Man” the most of the four Gospels.
10. According to Mark’s Gospel, what was the first thing Jesus did after being baptized by John the Baptist? (Bonus: How long did this activity last?)

Serving This Month

March 3

Worship Assistants: Eric Ofori
Dean Calamaras
Greeters: Jen McAuley
Bill Multunas
Head Greeter: Peter Laz
Nursery: Alice Bentley &
Lois Pasinella
Communion: Sue Laz
Fellowship Hosts: Wendy & Rob Jensen
Bruce Tolagian

March 10

Worship Assistants: Natalia Multunas
Ella Miller
Greeters: Bruce Tolagian
Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
Nursery: Jen McAuley
Irene Amponsah
Communion: Bill Multunas, Dean
Calamaras, Andy Miller,
Sue Laz
Fellowship Hosts: Holly Steciuk

March 17

Worship Assistants: Sue Laz & Jesse Ofori
Greeters: Pat Gilmaier
Dean Calamaras
Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
Nursery: Alice Bentley
Lois Pasinella
Communion: Eric Ofori, Jason Laz,
Deena Dominy,
Doris Calamaras
Fellowship Hosts: Doris Calamaras

March 24

Worship Assistants: Deena Dominy
Dean Calamaras
Greeters: Valerie Bidwell
Vaughn Skarzynski
Head Greeter: Peter Laz
Nursery: Jen McAuley
Irene Amponsah
Communion: Pat Gilmaier, Rob
Jensen, Alice Bentley,
Natalia Multunas
Fellowship: Jen McAuley

March 31

Worship Assistants: Bill Multunas
Natalia Multunas
Greeters: Joe Pasinella
Head Greeter: Rob Jensen
Nursery: Alice Bentley
Lois Pasinella
Communion: Sue Laz, Jen McAuley,
Andy Miller, Bill
Multunas
Fellowship: Valerie Bidwell &
Vaughn Skarzynski

March Birthdays



03/11 Serena Solomon
03/22 Vaughn Skarzynski
03/25 Sue Stierer
03/26 Chuck Davey
03/30 Abby McAuley

March Anniversaries



03/23 Joe & Lois Pasinella

Session Meeting
February 11, 2019

ACTION ITEMS

1. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to host a Game Night for Horizon's international students and friendship partners on April 6th from 4-9 PM.
2. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to allow Dan McAuley to do a presentation on his time serving in Djibouti.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Annual renewals of our property tax exemptions for the City of Troy and Town of North Greenbush have been completed.
- Annual Statistical Report has been submitted to GA.

Committee Reports

- Upward Ministry (Worship and Prayer)
 - We will be planning for the Lenten season which begins in March.
- Inward Ministry
 - Reaching out to members to see who would like to be involved in ministry to our shut-ins.
 - The Benevolence Fund is running low. We will place an article in the next newsletter highlighting the use of those funds and encourage giving.
 - The Upper Room subscription has been renewed.
 - We will renew the subscription for Presbyterians Today but cut the number of issues to 3.
- Outward Ministry (Mission, Outreach and Communications)
 - Mission spending for December
 - Capital City Rescue Mission \$ 500.00
 - Bangladesh YFC \$ 300.00
 - Capital District YFC \$ 500.00
 - InterVarsity at RPI and Sage \$ 500.00
- Stewardship
 - Finance There was a negative cash flow during January of \$5,409.11. This gives us a year-to-date deficit of \$5,409.11.
 - Property
 - Two issues of concern that we will be working on: there is a leak in the sanctuary balcony wall area and water is accumulating in the back of the church caused by the new driveway.
 - Albany Presbytery
 - The next Presbytery meeting will be March 26th from 10:00-3:00 at the Delmar Church.

New Business

- We will be drafting a letter to Albany Presbytery stating our position and asking them to release a statement against abortion provision of the Reproductive Health Act.

Next Meetings

- March 11th at 7:00 PM, Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Laz, Clerk



LENTEN PROGRAM
Wednesday evenings at 6:15
Beginning March 6th

You are invited to join us for a light dinner of homemade soups and bread followed by an informal time of looking at the life of Jesus as presented in the Gospel of Mark.
childcare will be available for children 2 and older.

If you would like to contribute to the meal you can bring a pot of soup or some cookies to share.



Third Presbyterian Church
115 Winter Street
Troy, NY 12180

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EXALTING GOD / PROCLAIMING CHRIST / MAKING DISCIPLES