

The Word



Rejoice
greatly,

Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt,
the foal of a donkey.

— Zechariah 9:9, NIV —

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Ministers Musings

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^(a) these things. Philippians 4:8

They say that if March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb, or vice-versa. A prediction about the unpredictability of weather, or a way to say that the transition from winter to spring is seldom directly linear. Two days of beautiful days in the 60s followed by a week of snow and cold rain. Crocuses peeking out into sunshine and then enough wind to send branches careening across the yard. Lent is a little like that as well. It's offered to us as a solemn and penitential time, an opportunity to sharpen our prayer discipline and to practice self-examination and confession. Then the lectionary gives us some of scripture's most wonderful and loving texts, as unpenitential as possible. Isaiah proclaims, 'Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price!' God's love invites all to come and enjoy! Jesus tells the story of a man with two sons, both of whom he loves deeply and unconditionally. Joy and love and grace abound week after week, until we come to Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. Then there's a quick reversal and we hear about confusion and anger and betrayal and torture and pain and death. All of it grounded in the foundational truth of the Easter joy that's on the way.

Spring and Lent both, together and separately, are roller coasters of emotion. Most of us are already dealing with other stressors – family challenges, health challenges, financial uncertainty – and this may well begin to feel utterly overwhelming. Take an off-ramp from the amusement ride. Take a walk, wind or no wind, call a friend and laugh with them about their grandchildren, think about the good things Paul recommends to the Philippians – whatever is true and honorable and just, sing yourself a song, come to church. You don't have to engage with the uproar around you all the time. Yes, God's love invites you to wrestle with troubles you encounter, but not incessantly. God also offers you green pastures and still waters, rest for your weary soul and balm for your pain. Take God up on the invitation to rest a while.

I hope you'll share the story of Holy Week with us in worship. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the celebrations of Easter are powerful experiences, always. There's a place for you, and we'd love to see you.

~Pastor Cathy

Highlights of March Parish Council, March 17, 2025

Stephanie opened the meeting with a reflection of appreciation for the way the church has cared for her family, from her mom's funeral a year ago to welcoming Meredith and Delaney as members two weeks ago.

We began our business with an update and a discussion of plans for UMD's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Our hope is that we celebrate all year long in 2026, beginning the fundraising campaign early in the year and culminating with a big event in the fall, perhaps on a long weekend. We hope to host another brainstorming meeting during coffee hour on April 6 (moved to April 27 because of scheduling conflicts). Ideas for the year also include a special music concert, some kind of presence at Fair on the Square, and shared events with other organizations in town. The committee is not set in stone, but there are at least four or five people who have indicated interest in serving.

The February minutes and the March treasurer's report were presented and approved.

The Finance Committee came to the Council with a recommendation that the budget be adjusted for the second half of the year to reflect an annual pastoral compensation package of \$40,000 to \$45,000, expecting a half-time pastor who would live in the parsonage. This would be a \$50,000 savings to our annual budget (\$25,000 for the rest of 2025). We talked about precisely what half-time ministry would look like. The process of deciding that would go to SPR, but we hope to include a conversation and a survey of the congregation as we decide priorities of pastoral care. Gideon and Carol, as lay leaders, have had conversations with both Greg Garis, the Executive Presbyter, and with Karen Monk, the United Methodist District Superintendent, both of whom are supportive of a UMD decision to change the by-laws and broaden our possibilities for pastoral leadership.

Collections for Faith Giving have often been on inconvenient Sundays since we set them as the last Sunday of the quarter. We decided to move Faith Giving Sundays to the first Sunday of the last month of each quarter, beginning with June 1, 2025. First quarter giving statements will go out in early April.

Trustees. Gideon reported that Robert Dee can fix the steeple clock with a \$200 part and the Trustees approved that expense. He also will come up with an estimate and an explanation to simplify the working parts of the clock.

Johnson Control says we need to replace our fire control panel because it is obsolete. Trustees have approved the replacement; we expect to apply for an O'Connor grant to help with the cost.

The Trustees are considering purchasing new, nicer chairs for McIntosh Hall. Carol will look at color choices and compare prices.

The bedroom carpet in the parsonage will be replaced once Cathy and Rick move out instead of this spring, so we don't have to move furniture to do the job. A new toilet will be installed in the MB bathroom soon.

The new 15-minute parking sign just went up. We'd like to ask the Village for a clarifying addition to the sign that says it's only valid M-F, 9-3.

SPR will meet on March 18.

Pastor Cathy. Communion on March 2; 38 people were served.

Meredith and Delaney joined the church on March 2. Hope and Taso Pantilieris will join on March 23, and Hope and the two kids will be baptized that day also. Cathy will be appointed to churches on Long Island as of July 1. Her last Sunday will be June 22, with the expectation that we will worship with the Presbyterian churches in the area at Walton for a special music Sunday on June 29. Ash Wednesday service occurred on March 5; there are Lenten devotional materials available. Thursday morning book study is looking at the new United Methodist Social Principles for the next few weeks. Kids' Club is good. Pastor Cathy will be away on Sunday, April 27. Chelsea Frisbee Johnson will preach that Sunday. There is a Presbytery Assembly on April 12; Pastor Cathy will attend.

Outreach. Play School. Eloise reported that there are now four students for the Spring. There are 22 names of interested students for next fall. There was a

movie night fundraiser on March 7, with a decent turnout. There's a bake sale fundraiser at the St. Patrick's Day parade. Funds are tight.

Witness. We will offer hot chocolate at the St. Paddy's Day Parade. We will meet at the church at 11:15 to be ready for the parade at noon. Carol and Ruth V. and Pastor Cathy will serve the hot chocolate.

Other business. John Gaffney asked to be removed from UMD membership. The Council voted to remove his name from the rolls.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday, April 15.

Kids' Club

The Kids' Club meets Wednesdays after school for Bible stories, crafts, snacks and singing. Right now they're a small group filled with energy and enthusiasm that shines through when they share their gifts with us singing during worship. All children Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome!

Currently they've been learning about Easter. As part of their lesson they used some yummy snacks to

create resurrection scenes. Pastor Cathy, Evelyn Jacksto, Carole Greene, and Pat Nabinger are full of creative ideas in ways to share faith with the children!



Play School Update - April 2025

Happy Spring!! Play School has had a very busy couple of months! Mrs. Arehart came in for our Dental Unit. The kids had a lot of fun learning about teeth, taking care of their teeth, dental stories and counting teeth. Play School is up to 4 students. With our low enrollment this year, we have planned some fundraising events to help with the budget. Play School hosted a Movie Night on March 7th. We had 13 kids attend to watch the movie Frozen, enjoy popcorn, pretzels, lemonade or water. We made \$106 in donations.

Play School also hosted their annual bake sale during the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22nd. We made \$533 in donations. Please keep watch for additional information to come on future fundraisers.

We are planning to host a bottle/can drive in the near future. Date TBD. Play School would like to remind you that we have an open account at Dutch Redemption for cans and bottles with a 5¢ deposit. If you would like to drop off your cans and bottles to the Play School Account, or drop them off to Play School for us to take back, we would greatly appreciate it! If you don't have cans and bottles to donate and would like to make a monetary donation to Play School that would also be appreciated! Just please remember to write Play School in the memo section of your check.

In April, Play School received a donation of trees from the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District for our Earth Day Unit. Will Outsen will stop by for an Easter Egg Hunt with the class. We will have a class Easter Party. We have been busy learning our letters, counting, colors, listening to stories, painting with watercolors, poster paint, and finger painting. We have come up with so many fun



and creative projects for our letter of the week, the kids can't wait to see what we do next!

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Savage
Play School Director



*13 kids attended Movie Night with their parents on March 7th to enjoy the movie Frozen
The Play School bulletin board is decorated for spring with art works created by the children*



Food Ministry

March has always seemed like a long, unpredictable month. It was unpredictable weather-wise but it seemed to fly by this year. The pantry was busy with 38 families coming in. That means counting family members we provided food for 76 people.

We did get to a Shop the Lot for pantries. it was cold that day with a hint of sun but by the time we got to Oneonta it was snowing pretty hard. We did pick up a case of heads of cauliflower, some tomatoes on the vine, carrots and nectarines all of which were a treat to our people as they are things we don't normally carry. We plan to check out the other ones when they have them.

We did receive a donations from the farmers of 10# of pork chops, 10 # of pork roasts and 5# of beef shanks which was appreciated as well as the donation of a fairly large number of Ensure and a bag of assorted toiletries that a church had been collecting for CWS. It seems like whatever comes in we find a home for.

I was also able to meet with a woman who was in Andes visiting her daughters. She is a large donor and it was good to meet her and show her around.

There was a pantry advisory board meeting this past Wednesday. Among other things we were given copies of the food distributions that will be held this year. You need to pre-register for these. Deb will see that they get posted. We also received info that Chobani will be at the Southside mall on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month to give away yogurt. This is open to the public and is being held from 11:00 till noon. I have no idea what products or how much they might be giving away. If you are in Oneonta and decide to check it out please pass the info along.

And last but not least we held another giveaway this past Saturday. Unfortunately Carol was unable to participate this time but due to all her planning and purchasing things ahead of time as well as having well trained her crew we were able to make it happen.

72 boxes were packed and delivered to the Senior Community, temporary housing, and some community members. We had help from the Girl Scouts and the college so all went quickly.



13 boxes were also delivered during the month of March to persons temporarily housed.

Please be sure to save any egg cartons you may have and bring them to the pantry. Sometimes the only way we can afford to give out eggs is by buying them in bulk, meaning they come in flats and have to be put into cartons. Also items we could use are crackers, coffee, tea, Chunky soup or Progresso, tomato soup and pasta (NOT elbows or spaghetti).

My mom used to have a plaque that read "Thank God for dirty dishes they have a tale to tell, while others may go hungry we're eating rather well; with home, health and happiness we shouldn't want to fuss, God's been very good to us."

Happy Spring!

~ Edie



So many volunteers show up to pack & deliver boxes of food, that it doesn't feel like work at all!

Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at noon in the Harder Room. Bring your own lunch, and dessert and beverages will be provided.



Bible Quiz



From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- B. "I thirst!"
- C. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- D. "It is finished!"



Answer: A (See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; and Psalm 22:1.)

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 13 - 10:30 am. On that day when he rode into Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him with shouts of 'Hosanna!' We will celebrate Jesus with the waving of palms, and we will hear of his passion. Plan to be at worship.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 - We will celebrate Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples in scripture and with communion on Thursday night at **7:00**.

Good Friday, April 18 - At **noon** the churches of St. John's Episcopal, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Immanuel Lutheran, and United Ministry will join in the Walk of the Cross. We begin here at the United Ministry and end at Woodland Cemetery, about 90 minutes later. On the way there are readings and hymns and thoughts about the day.

Sunrise Service, April 20 - "On the first day of the week, early in the morning, the women went to the tomb..." We will follow the women's example and go to the river early on Easter morning. At **6:00 am**, on Easter, April 20, we will gather at **Hoyt Park**, for a short, joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please join us!

Easter Sunday Morning Worship, April 20 - 10:30 am. There will be joy! There will be much singing and celebration as we rejoice in the news of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead! I hope you will be there!

Lily Order Form



We will have lily plants to decorate the sanctuary for our Easter Worship service. If you would like to help defray the cost, or would like to make a donation to the Food Pantry in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event in your life, please fill out the form below and return to the church office by **Sunday, April 13th**. Please fill out the form **exactly** as you would like the dedication to read:

Lily plant(s) for the Sanctuary

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

\$ _____ for _____ plants at \$18.95 each.

Or: _____ I will supply my own plant



Food Bank Donation

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

Total \$ _____ donation to Food Bank

Please pick up your plant after worship on Easter Sunday.

Please order by Sunday, April 13th!

Our Changing Family



Hope Pantilieris is baptized by Pastor Cathy on March 23rd during worship

With much joy, on Sunday, Meredith McCann Delaney McCann and the Pantilieris family into our congregation. Meredith and Delaney were received by Affirmation of Faith during worship in Sunday, March 2nd and the Pantilieris family was received into membership during worship on Sunday, March 23rd. The Pantilieris family has been attending for some time and received by transfer of membership from the Asbury

United Methodist Church and Hope was received by baptism and Affirmation of Faith. Their children, Evelyn and Milton were baptized and received as preparatory members. Charle Cash hosted a beautiful Coffee Hour following the service to welcome the Pantilieris family into our church family.



Evelyn Pantilieris is baptized by Pastor Cathy during worship on Sunday, March 23rd



Chrystal Savage	4/1	Sandy Russell	4/6	Delaney McCann	4/14
Ralph Dandignac	4/4	Carol Farley	4/10	Martha Vink	4/18
Renee Apthorpe	4/5	Jim Ockenfels	4/12	Fran Ackerly	4/20
Cathy Schuyler	4/6	Beth Hildreth	4/12	Tom Briggs	4/25



Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.



Coffee Hour

Apr 6 Leanne, Laura, Pat
 Apr 13 _____
 Apr 20 _____
 Apr 27 _____

Flowers

Apr 6 _____
 Apr 13 _____
 Apr 20 _____
 Apr 27 _____

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

Word and Worship

Sunday, April 6

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 13

Palm/Passion Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17,
31b-35

Friday, April 18

Good Friday

The seven last words of Jesus on the
cross
Matthew 27:45-46;
Luke 23:3-34, 39-43, 44-46
John 19:26-27, 28, 30

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday

Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:1-12;
John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Lectors

April 6 *Charis Edwards*

April 13 *Gideon Frisbee*

April 17 *Rev. Rick Edwards*

(Maundy Thursday)

April 20 *Edie Campbell*

April 27 *Ruth Kazmierski*

Acolytes

April 6 *Madison Vredenburgh*

April 13 *Virginia Mills*

April 17 *Madison Vredenburgh*

(Maundy Thursday)

April 20 *Virginia Mills*

April 27 *Wyatt Frisbee*

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