

4th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2009

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

WE GATHER AS THE FAMILY OF CHRIST!

QUIET MUSIC

ORGAN PRELUDE "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" - Robert W. Thygerson

INTROIT (9:30 & 11:00) "On a Hill Called Mt. Calvary" With Faith

INGATHERING (Welcome, Ritual of Friendship, Announcements, Mission Moment, Greeting)

*HYMN No. 147 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

P: **The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.**

L: Let not loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; write them on the tablet of your heart.

P: **God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another.**

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, you are the source of all wisdom! Thank you for giving me both a heart and a mind, for giving me tools and encouragement for growing my faith as well as tools and opportunities for growing my reason and knowledge. Grant that I might use both my faith and my reason to serve you! Teach me not only to grow in Christian faith but also to mature in Christian wisdom. Help me to believe profoundly, and help me to think like a Christian. Grant that these resources that far too often have been separated may form for me one path of adoration and service that leads directly to you. Help me serve you with all of my intellect and all of my heart. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (9:30 & 11:00)

ANTHEM (9:30 & 11:00) "I've Just Seen Jesus" With Faith

WE HONOR AND GLORIFY THE LORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERTORY (8:00)

Prelude on "Olivet" - James Southbridge

OFFERTORY (9:30 & 11:00) "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*HYMN No. 172

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Praise be to God.**

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And with your spirit.**

SERMON

"God's Stimulus Plan"

Dr. Hall

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH AND SERVICE

*HYMN No. 128

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought"

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

*ORGAN POSTLUDE

"Festive Toccata" - Robert W. Thygerson

*People standing, if able

Dr. Hall's Scripture for next week is: John 12:20-33

Information for our church family and guests

- **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, SOUND ENHANCEMENT DEVICES, FOOT STOOLS,** and **CHILDREN'S QUIET ACTIVITY BAGS** are available from the ushers.
- **ELEVATORS** to all 3 levels are located near the front side and back doors of the church.
- **HANDICAPPED PARKING** is available in the front, side, and rear parking lots.
- **SILENT PAGERS** are available for parents who have infants/toddlers in the nursery.
- **TO CONTACT US:** 604 Oswego St., Liverpool, NY • 457-5180 • liverpoolfirstumc.org

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Donald T. Harp** by **Nancy Harp and family.**

For our service of worship

WORSHIP LEADERS: 8:00 Kay Phillips; 9:30 & 11:00 Rev. Moore-Krackhardt

CHOIR DIRECTOR: James Welsch

ORGANIST: Nancy Harp

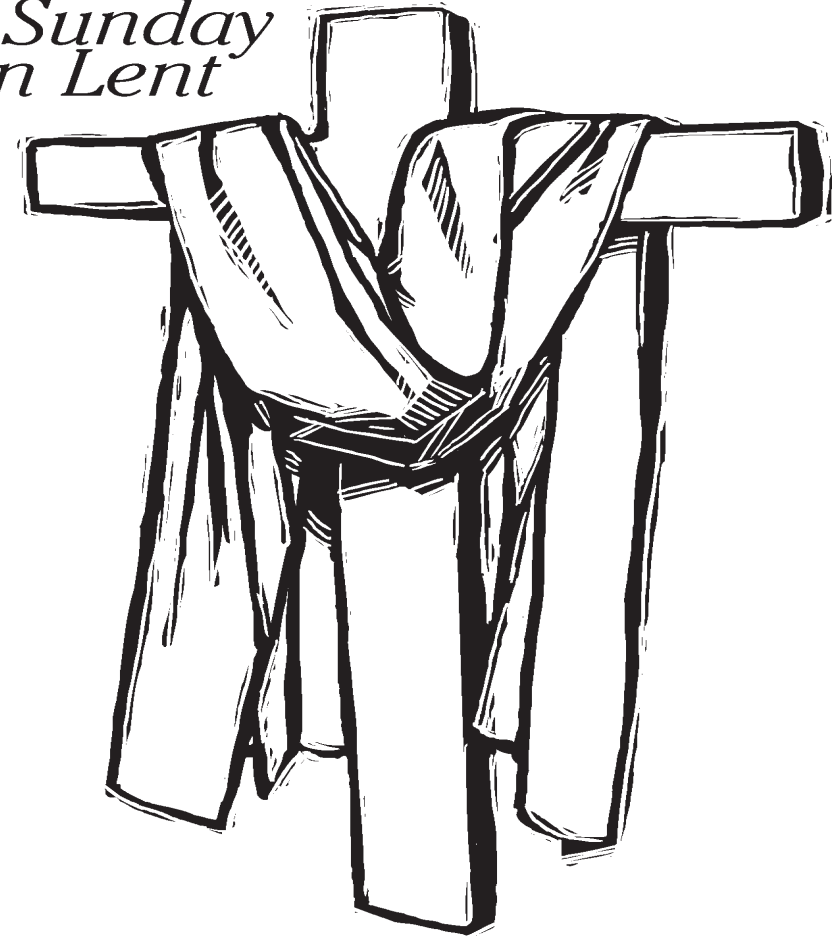
ACOLYTE: 9:30 Julia Pulimoottil

GREETERS: 8:00 David & Margaret Henes; 9:30; 11:00 Kim Vaughn

This week at Liverpool First

- TODAY:** 8:00 AM Early Worship
9:30 & 11:00 AM Morning Worship
9:30 AM Nursery Care for infants & Sunday School for ages three to 12th grade
9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
11:00 AM Confirmation Class
4:00 PM Joyful Noise Concert
5:30 PM Red Bird Mission meeting
6:30 PM Alleluia Choir
7:00 PM SPRC
7:00 PM Grief Support Group
- MONDAY:** 12:30 PM Senior Nutrition Luncheon
3:00 PM Prayer Partners
5:30 PM Olivebranch
- TUESDAY:** 10:00 AM Quilting Group
1:00 PM Beth Moore Bible Study
7:00 PM Dr. Hall's Bible Study
7:00 PM Girl's Bible Study
- WEDNESDAY:** 6:30 PM Parent discussion group
6:30 PM Spirit Singers
7:00 PM Children's Bell Choir
7:00 PM Disciple 1 class
7:45 PM Sr. High/ Adult Bell Choir
- THURSDAY:** 7:00 PM Chancel Choir
- FRIDAY:** 5:30 PM Praise Band
7:00 PM LIFE Youth Ministry

Fourth *Sunday* *in Lent*



LIVERPOOL FIRST **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Russell C. Hall
Rev. Penny Hart
Rev. Shirley Moore-Krackhardt

Milton T. Jefferson
Pastor Emeritus

What's Up Downstairs?



News of Our Sunday Morning Christian Education Program

This Week—A long weekend in the Liverpool schools means some families will be away so we have combined class activities and lessons. Our common curriculum focuses on the story of Jesus in Gethsemane, which is found in all the Gospels. It is John 18, however, that gives us the detail that Jesus often went to this place to pray. Whenever our Lord faced danger or difficult decisions, he sought God in prayer. Here, we recognize the humanity of the disciples (falling asleep despite their promises to watch and wait) in contrast to the divinity of Jesus, and we hear the prayer "...not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26).

Adult Helpers—Sue Andrews and Erin VanMarter, co-chairs of the Christian Education Commission, have been serving as Sunday School Coordinators for the past two months. They miss attending 9:30 worship and have asked for volunteers to help in this role. Bill Smith has trained to take over through Easter and will share the coordinator's duties on alternate months if someone else is willing to train to do that. Anyone interested may speak to Sue, Erin or Linda Loomis, volunteer interim Christian education director.

Lent—the spice students will add to their sachet bags this week is juniper berry, which is to signify forgiveness. Good news! Mary Nichols sewed 50 bags, and we ran out the first week. Last Sunday, our crafty friend showed up with 25 more bags so each of our children could have one. Many thanks for this generous service to our children and young people.

Easter—During Sunday School assembly time recently, the students have learned the "Honduran Alleluia," and this week they will add rhythm instruments to the song. They will process, singing the joyful praise song, on Easter at the 9:30 a.m. service.



Volunteer for Contact

Contact Community Services needs volunteers to staff its hotline. Free training provides the skills to respond to callers facing a wide range of problems. Volunteers are asked to cover two 4 hour shifts each month. Training begins March 24. For more info., call 251-1400 ext. 104 or visit www.contactsyracuse.org



Joyful Noise Tonight

We are privileged to showcase some of the talented students from the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University next Sunday. Two groups that are coordinated and directed by James O. Welsch will perform: the Setnor Brass Choir, which he founded as a grass roots project at the university this year, and the Setnor New Music Ensemble. The concert is at 4 p.m. Please plan to attend and show these young artists how much we value their talent and appreciate their contribution to our series.

Compline March 29

The quiet, contemplative service of Compline is offered at 8 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month. Particularly appropriate as a time of spiritual renewal during Lent, it is a service of prayer and supplication, praising God for the blessings of the day and seeking peace and rest for the night ahead. Worshippers enter the candle-lit sanctuary in silence and remain silent throughout as a choir and cantor offer scripture, prayers and responses.

French toast breakfast, March 29

The Red Bird Mission team will serve a French toast breakfast on March 29. The menu will consist of French toast, sausage, orange juice and coffee. A free-will offering will be taken at the door. Serving will be 7:30 to 11 a.m.

Easter Altar Flowers

We invite you to honor your loved ones by purchasing flowers to decorate our altar on Easter Sunday. By purchasing plants together, we can provide beautiful plants at the best possible price. Lilies are \$8 and Azaleas are \$11 each. Please return this form with payment by March 31. A list of honored loved ones will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Thank you for helping to provide a beautiful altar to celebrate Easter.



Easter Flower Order Form

Please order: _____ Lilies for \$8 each _____ Azaleas for \$11 each

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Phone #: _____



Gifts for animals in shelters

Please help our Sunday School children collect food and supplies for the Humane Society and Kitty Corner of CNY, two local shelters. These shelters are challenged by diminishing financial support. Please take a list of needed supplies from the table in the hallway outside fellowship hall. Those who would like to make monetary donations may use an envelope from the pew. Please mark the envelope "for animal shelter" and place it in the offering. See Erin VanMarter for information.

Lenten and Holy Week Music

All our choirs are preparing music to enrich our spiritual journey through Lent and Holy Week and to enhance worship services for the joyful celebration of Easter. In addition to offering special music each Sunday during Lent, the choirs will bring a combined presentation of vocal, bell and instrumental music to the Palm Sunday worship services. The Chancel Choir will lead a Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday as we gather as a church family to observe the Last Supper. Through this service of shadows, we will remember the sorrowful events that lead our Lord to the cross and the darkness that preceded the glorious light of the resurrection. On Good Friday, at 7 p.m., Director of Music Ministries James Welsch will conduct a combined adult choir at Plymouth Congregational UCC in the presentation of Gabriel Faure's "Requiem." This deeply spiritual piece reflects the composer's personal choice of texts that emphasize assurances of rest and peace for the soul. It will be presented in the manner of the original, accompanied by organ with a small chamber orchestra. Our Chancel Choir will be joined by vocalists from Plymouth United Church of Christ, the First Unitarian Universalist Society, and University United Methodist Church.



There will be a Grief Support Group meeting on March 22 in the Conference Room from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Please contact the church office if you would like the bus to pick you up for the meeting. If you would like more information, contact Pastor Shirley at 457-1087.

Dr. Hall's Lenten Bible Study

Faith, Doubt, and Courage: In 15 Great People of Faith based upon: John Tyson's Book

- 3/24/09 Session #4 John Calvin
Read Scripture: Romans 8:18-30
Read Chapter 10 in Tyson's book
- 3/31/09 Session #5 Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Read Scripture: Matthew 16:24-38
Read Chapter 13 in Tyson's book
- 4/7/09 Session #6 Martin Luther
Read Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

In the hospital as of Friday:

Parents: It's Back!!

Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30 for a supportive discussion on parenting. We will support each other, working together to learn what it means to be Christian parent in a challenging world. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Toukatly at 457-6613 or at toukatly@msn.com.

Purple Wheels

Do you know someone who could benefit by riding our bus to and from the 9:30 church service? We will bring passengers from home to church and back. They must be able to walk with or without a cane, crutches or walker (no wheelchairs or power chairs, as yet). Donations for gas and upkeep are always appreciated.

Olivebranch

Olivebranch meets March 23rd with hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00. (\$5) Dinner reservations will be accepted no later than Sunday, March 22nd. Danya Wellmon of Women Transcending Boundaries, which began over a cup of coffee shortly after September 11, 2001, will give us an insight into their organization of women of many faiths and cultures. All are welcome. Turn in the tear-off to the office or call Pat Cupernall 457-6730.

Name _____ Phone _____