



First Presbyterian Church of Lockport

“A WINDOW TO GOD’S LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE”

Organized January 19, 1823

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020 EDITION

Upcoming Events

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020



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God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before.

Amen 1

BELIEVE





FROM THE PASTOR'S

DESK



Reverend William James Hardy

During the past few months, I have been reading a lot of books on Jesus and the Church. My reading has deepened by faith and has assisted in my sermon preparation and my Bible studies. In one of the books that I read, *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teaching, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* by Marcus J. Borg, Borg states that the purpose of the Church is “transformation.” He writes: “God does not need the church. But Christians do. God can get along without the church. But we cannot.”

Unfortunately, between 6,000 and 10,000 churches close their doors every year. We have seen this in Lockport, as Grace Episcopal Church will close its doors in February 2020 and Victory Christian has closed its church and is now renting space from another church.

For many Americans, the church is no longer relevant or important in their life. For these individuals, time once spent at church is now spent attending sporting events, sleeping, volunteering for other charitable organizations, watching television, or doing other activities with family or friends. The church is no longer a place of transformation for them.

For those Christians who still believe in the church, these are depressing statistics. However, Borg has suggested that the decline can also be liberating for Christians for whom the church is still important. In other words, those who remain active in the church tend to be more committed and engaged in their church, more likely to participate in the ministries of the church, more like to volunteer to be an officer, and more likely to pledge to support these ministries.

This past year has been a time of renewal for me personally. I have been reacquainted with the loving compassion and dedicated commitment of our congregation. I have been powerfully impressed by our active members’ willingness to volunteer their time for ministries and donate to worthy causes.

During the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons, it was amazing to see the number of gifts donated to local children, the baskets of food donated, the peanut butter and jelly donated, the clothing and coats donated. It has been inspiring to watch.

I have also been impressed by those who have volunteered to be officers of the church. We will have seven new officers next year. Our newest Elder is still a teenager and has already attended two session meetings. Two of our newest Deacons have been members of the church for less than a year. And one of our newest Deacons has served as an officer of our church for one third of her life!

I have been impressed with the increased vitality in our Chancel Choir, the new members who have recently joined our church, and the visitors that have been attending church on a regular basis. It is exciting to be part of this congregation.

I am again hopeful for the New Year. I have a feeling that it is going to be a great one!

Blessings,

Pastor Jim Hardy



Each new year brings us new opportunities to know Him more, to walk in faith, and grow by His grace.

May your year be
blessed in the Lord.

...no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—1 Corinthians 2:9

Peanut Brittle 2019

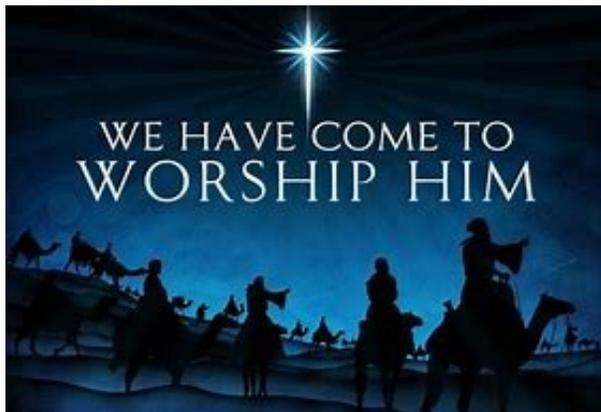


Alex Yuen	Doug Dempsey	Kevin Seekins	Rick Maines
Alie Alessi	Heather Miner	Kim Seekins	Robert Kovacs
Alison Pynn	Jared Miner	Lillie Sanborn	Robin Bonanno
Bryan Seekins	Jenna Lamont	Maddy Goerss	Ryleigh Blum
Cameron Bonanno	Joan Shaffer	Maria Goodrich	Sandra Zajac
Carol Walker	Joe Rongo	Mary Boyle	Sherry Dempsey
Charlene Porteus	Josh Penna	Melissa Penna	Steve Legters
Colin Fragale	Justin Lamont	Mykayla McCarthy	Steven Seekins
Corey McCarthy	Katie Miner	Renee Hardy	Tony Shay
Doris Kovacs	Kelsey Doty	Rev. Jim Hardy	Wes Miner

Special thanks to the following business's that made it possible for another successful fundraising year.



- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Ace Hardware | Mills Jewelers |
| Advantage Physical Therapy | Newfane Lumber |
| Country Side Vet | Sandy's Barber Shop |
| Halls Apple Farm | Scapelletti's |
| Synergy | The Butcher Shop |
| Kenan Center | BLING |
| Lockport Apothecary | Zimmies |



Epiphany Sunday
January 5th, 2020

Ash Wednesday
February 26th, 2020





Director of Music Jeffrey A. Seekins

A NOTE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Starting off in 2020 will be the beginning of doing something different and enriching. Join one of the church's music ensembles:

- Chancel Choir meets Sundays at 9:30AM
- Praise Choir, check with Jackie Davis for rehearsal times
- New Beginnings Handbell Ensemble meets Wednesday evening
- Celestial Handbells meet Wednesday afternoon
- Youth Handbells meet each Sunday at 8:45AM

Each ensemble has members with varying musical abilities, some are beginners, others are more advanced. We have fun and are focused on leading our worship services. If you are interested in more information please contact Jeff Seekins at church or visit him following worship each week. We need your weekly participation.

For a complete listing of programs please see our website: 1stpreslockport.org or see Jeffrey Seekins.



Bucknell University's Rooke Chapel Ringers

First Presbyterian church's handbell program has enjoyed a long history with Bucknell University's Rooke Chapel Ringers. Our church's long-time Director of Music Beatrice Fraser was a colleague and personal friend of William Payne, the esteemed director and composer for the Rooke Chapel Ringers. Bill and Beatrice co-hosted a National Handbell Conference at Alfred University in the 1970s featuring FPC's handbell choir. The Rooke Chapel ringers toured Europe singing and ringing Beatrice Fraser's composition "Sing Praise!" in the 1980s. In the 1990s Bill brought the ringers to Lockport and Kenmore to present well received concerts. We are proud that Jared Miner is a part of this well respected handbell ensemble.

Board of Deacons

Coats for the Cold

The 2019 Coats for the Cold campaign was a huge success due to generous donations given. Here is a tally of the items donated:

61 adult coats & jackets

27 youth coats & jackets

97 miscellaneous hats, scarves, mittens & gloves.



Donated items were delivered to the Community Mission of Niagara Frontier and to the Assembly Mike Norris Winter Clothing Drive.

The Board of Deacons wish to thank those who donated items for the less fortunate. Your generosity will be a blessing to the recipients. Special thanks to Steve Cotton and the Board of Deacons!



Family Life Outreach Ministry Events



CWS Blankets begins Sundays, January 13th-27th, 2020

CWS has distributed thousands of blankets around the world in 2019. Our congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2020. You will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more.



Souper Bowl Sunday. Sunday, February 2nd, 11:30 A.M. - A sign-up sheet for volunteers to bring soups, crackers, and bread, or to set-up and clean-up, will be posted in Arnold Hall.



One Great Hour of Sharing. Sunday, February 10th - Sunday, March 24th, 2020

Murder Mystery Party at the Kenan House February 29th, 2020 party is 6:00-9:00, for more info see sign-up sheet in Arnold Hall.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Special thanks to all the children, parents and volunteers for a memorable Christmas pageant. A huge thank you to Carlie Poole, Rev. Hardy & Jeffrey Seekins for their support and direction.

Happy New Year to all!



Scouts Corner

Cub Scouts Den meetings are held Thursday evenings at 6:30-8PM. For more information contact Mrs. Kim Seekins.



Blue & Gold Banquet—March 28, 2020
Scout Sunday—Feb 9, 2020



Girl Scout meetings are held on Sundays at 12:30PM [Dates TBA] or for more information contact Susan Haley or the church office.

January 2020 Calendar

2020 JANUARY

SUNDAYS

8:15AM Communion Service

8:45AM CE Committee Meeting 1st Sunday of each mth

8:45AM Youth Handbells

9:30AM Chancel Choir rehearsal

9:30AM Sunday School

10:30AM Worship Service

11:30AM Coffee Fellowship Hour

11:45AM Worship Comm. Mig. 2nd Sunday of each mth

WEDNESDAYS

11:00AM Staff Meeting

2:00PM Music Lessons

3:00PM Celestial Bells

6:00PM Youth Handbells

7:30PM New Beginning Bells

THURSDAYS

Pastor's Day off

6:30-8PM Cub Scouts Denis Mig

SUNDAY
FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
	Elizabeth on vacation		HAPPY NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSED	6:30-8PM Cub Denis Mig	Girl Scout Lockin	Girl Scout Lockin
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Undeck the Halls following the service. Epiphany Sunday No Youth Bells	5-7pm Art Class	6:00 pm Personnel Mig 7:00 pm H & G 7:00 pm FLOM 7:00 pm Finance	10am Communion LPH 6:00pm Dollar Dinners	6:30-8PM Cub Denis Mig	Cub scout Lockin 5:30	FLOM Bowling @ Brad Angelo \$5.00 per person. Sign up sheet in Arnold Hall. Cub scout Lockin until 3:00pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Ordination & Installation of new officer's. 12:30-2PM Girl Scouts	Art Class	7:00 pm Deacons Mig 7:00 pm Session Mig	Committee Migs. Annual Reports due!	6:30-8PM Cub Denis Mig		New Officer's Training 9:30-12PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Art Class		6:30-8PM Cub Denis Mig		
12:30-2PM Girl Scouts						
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
Annual Meeting	Art Class			6:30-8PM Cub Denis Mig		

February 2020 Calendar

2020 FEBRUARY

SUNDAY
FIRST DAY OF WEEK

CALENDAR YEAR / MONTH

SUNDAYS

- 8:15AM Communion Service
- 8:45AM CE Committee Meeting 1st Sunday of each mth
- 8:45AM Youth Handbells
- 9:30AM Chancel Choir rehearsal
- 9:30AM Sunday School
- 10:30AM Worship Service
- 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship Hour
- 11:45AM Worship Comm. Mtg. 2nd Sunday of each mth

Girl Scouts dates will be announced

WEDNESDAYS

- 11:00AM Staff Meeting
- 2:00PM Music Lessons
- 3:00PM Celestial Bells
- 6:00PM Youth Handbells
- 7:30PM New Beginning Bells

THURSDAYS

- Pastor's Day off
- 6:30-8PM Cub Scouts Dens Mtg

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Super Bowl Sunday	Art Class	6:00 pm Personnel Mtg 7:00 pm H & G 7:00 pm FLOM 7:00 pm France		6:30-8PM Cub Dens Mtg		
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Scout Sunday	Art Class	7:00 pm Deacons Mtg 7:00 pm Session Mtg		6:30-8PM Cub Dens Mtg		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Praise Choir-pending	No School Art Class?			No cub scouts		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Art Class		ASH WEDNESDAY	6:30-8PM Cub Dens Mtg		Murder Mystery Party Kenan House February 29th, 2020 party is 6:00-9:00, for more info see sign up sheet in Arnold Hall Cub Scout Spagetti Dinner

CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you wish to purchase flowers in memory of, in honor of or for a special celebration...

1. Order & deliver the flowers.
2. Notify the church office one week in advance to be posted in next weeks bulletin. Please provide name(s), date and who the flowers are given by.

Lockport Presbyterian Church

January / February 2020



Un-deck the Halls

Sunday, **January 5th** following the 10:30AM service.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is posted on the church website. 1stpreslockport.org.

Our Staff

Rev. W. James Hardy
Pastor

Robin Andrews
Sunday Nursery Care

Elizabeth Lattimer
Office Manager

Heather Miner
Clerk of Session

Melissa Penna
Moderator of Deacons

Jeffrey Seekins
Organist/Choir Director

PRAYER CORNER

Please continue to pray for those who are hospitalized, in nursing facilities and shut-ins, and those serving in the military. Contact the church office to add/remove names off the prayer list.

Etta Arnold	Cheryl Marshall
Ken Baggett	Clyde Mayer
Bergeron family	John McWilliams
Jennifer Berry	Bert Mitchell
Arlene Bolton	Lorraine Mitchell
David Carlson	Joan Pearson
Tom Carson	Tom Porteus
Dorothy Degnan	Glenn Tall
Martha Ferguson	Jenny Taylor
Doni Koukal	Chris Wagner
Michael & Faith	Dotti Waite



From the Editor

Our next edition for 2020 will be the March & April edition. Deadline for submission is February 15th, 2020.

Birthday Blessings

To those celebrating a birthday in January & February... May your special day be filled with happiness and joy.

Office closed dates:

Jan 1, 2020 New Years Day
Jan. 20, 2020 MLK Day

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastor is on call for emergencies and hospital visits. He can be reached by calling the church office at (716)433-5905. If you or a family member becomes hospitalized, please notify the church office immediately as the hospitals will not contact us.



STAY IN TOUCH

COME SEE US
21 Church Street
Lockport, New York
14094
CALL US
(716) 433-5905
VISIT US
www.1stpreslockport



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