

# The Church Bell

The First Reformed Church  
Walden, New York

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Mar-Apr 2016

## Pastor's Message:



### Erratic or Consistent

We are in the heart of Lent with Easter racing up to greet us. The weather can't seem to decide between winter and spring; one week we have record breaking cold and the next record breaking heat. The poor sugar Maples are turning the sap flows on and off because of both high and low temperatures.

During this season of on again and off again, it might be spiritually helpful to engage one or more of the spiritual disciplines again. On Ash Wednesday I suggested that we consider three in particular: fasting, prayer and the giving of alms. So at the point in the season it seemed good to pass the idea by one more time, just in case you started and forgot or didn't start at all.

The idea is simple; fast (abstain from) one meal a day or for one day a week. During the meal times prayer in thanksgiving that you are blessed enough to give up that meal, pray for those who don't have enough to eat, like some of the folks in Syria. Pray for our church that we may speak words of healing that feed the community with unity. Pray during that time for a peace that endures. There are many things that need our prayers. Then lastly take an equivalent of the money the meal would have cost and donate it to a food pantry or Habitat for Humanity. If you would like you can save it up for the whole season and write a single check.

These three spiritual disciplines exercised in this way will be a blessing to you, to 1<sup>st</sup> Walden, and to the larger community. It will cause you to grow in the areas of self-control, prayer and generosity, two of which are fruit of the Holy Spirit.

So, while the weather may be inconsistent or even erratic, we can continue to grow into the image of Christ and be a blessing as the season marches toward the celebration of Easter.

*Pastor Jim*

**Sunday**  
**10:00 AM**

Sunday Worship

Communion  
(1st Sunday of every month)

**11:00 AM**  
Fellowship Time

Soup & Bread/  
Birthday Cake  
(1st Sunday of every month)

**Tuesday**  
**6:45 PM**  
Bell Choir  
**7:00 PM**  
Praise Team  
**7:30 PM**  
Chancel Choir

**Wednesday**  
**5:45 PM**  
Packing for Snack Attack

**Thursday**  
**7:00 PM**  
Consistory  
(3rd Thursday of the Month)

**Saturday**  
**7:30 AM**  
Men's Breakfast

### March

- \*See Lenten Service Schedule
- \*6th Share & Care Group
- \*13th Daylight Savings
- \*18th Flower Order deadline
- \*18th/19th Youth Group Openhouse
- \*20th Palm Sunday
- \*24th/25th Maunday Thursday  
Prayer Vigil
- \*25th Tenebrae Service
- \*27th Easter

### April

- \*3rd Congregational Meeting
- \*7th Bell Articles & calendar items due
- \*16th Feed His Sheep Dinner



## **The sap is flowing at Dancing Hills Farm**

It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of Maple Syrup. That's a lot of heat and concentrating of the fluid. There are a little over two dozen taps in trees throughout the farm and they are not centrally located in one spot. It requires checking the trees daily and filtering the water like fluid. Then it is poured into pans over a fire which needs to be checked regularly. I anticipate processing about 260 gallons of sap this year which translates into about six and a half gallons of sap. While the effort is great the results are very sweet. The same can be said about faith. We may offer up many prayers and think there are little to no results, but the more we focus our life in Jesus Christ, the more we pray, study, worship and serve him the more we are concentrating our faith and the rich rewards is sweet indeed. There have been many hundreds of prophets and holy people that inspire and can even enrich our lives. However, none of them have or can set us free from our past, except only Christ, who has returned from the dead and paid the price for our impurity. When we concentrate on him and allow God to take away the baggage of our life we are enriched and refined so as to be a blessing to all who taste the Lord through our lives. So let the richness of God's presence flow through you this season.



*Pastor Jim*

## **Invitation**

Starting in April Pastor Jim and Phyllis will be inviting small groups of people to gather at their house for a time of fellowship, food and fun. There will be a signup sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary with dates and places to sign up if you are so interested. They hope by doing this it will help them get to know the congregation in a deeper way sooner. So stay tuned for more information.

## **Sign up for our Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil**

Come to church and take an hour to pray. Help us pray during the time Jesus asked his disciples to stay awake on the night before he was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. The sign-up sheet will soon be in the back of the narthex with available time slots. Thursday, **March 24th @ 7:00pm thru Friday, March 25th @ 11am.**



## **Lessons and Themes into April**

2-28-16 Lent 3

“Growing In spite of Fear”

When we let fear direct our path we discover that we are going no where, trusting in the journey of Christ brings us into his presence.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 & Luke 13:1-9

3-6-16 Lent 4

“Seeing Yourself Through God’s Eyes”

In the eyes of God we are precious no matter how the world or we see ourselves; everyone is important to God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 & Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

3-13-16 Lent 5

“Let It Be”

The cost of salvation is too great for us to pay but God has made a way for us and calls us his chosen people.

Philippians 3:4b-14 & John 12:1-8

3-20-16 Palm Sunday

“Mixed Expectations”

The Arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem caused a stir of hopes, fears and expectations of all kinds. Who do we believe Jesus to be?

Philippians 2:5-11 & Luke 19:28-40

3-27-16 Easter

“Totally Unexpected”

The resurrection of Jesus, while spoken about by him to his disciples was far from their expectations on that first day of the week. It was so shocking that he breathed his peace upon them.

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 & John 20:1-18

4-3-16 Easter 2

“Some Kind of Courage”

We often long for the spiritual high of others we know and begin to doubt our faith, but God is good and will bless us.

Revelation 1:4-8 & John 20:19-31

4-10-16 Easter 3

“Feed and Follow”

Seeing Jesus and believing leads to a life of service as we follow Christ in mission being transformed and transforming others along the way.

Revelation 5:11-14 & John 21:1-19

4-17-16 Pastor Ken will be preaching

4-24-16 Pastor Jim will begin a sermon series on the fruit of the Spirit. There are nine fruits that help others know the depth of your relationship with God. These fruits breathe life and hope into the individual and into the whole community. Then in June he will begin a series on the gifts of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts are given to all who believe and follow Christ. These gifts are for building up the body of Christ, the church and for glorifying God. Even if you have taken a Spiritual gifts test in the past you may discover that you have new gifts that God wants you to explore and use to strengthen the church.

### **The 3rd Annual Feed His Sheep Mission Dinner**

This dinner to raise monies to help the Montgomery Food Pantry and Backpack Snack Attack will be held on Saturday, April 16th, 2016 at The First Reformed Church from 4:00p.m. –7:00p.m. (continuous seating, 8 per table).

These two outreaches are for needy families/students in the Valley Central School District. The net money received from the sales of dinner tickets, Gift Basket Raffles, and door prizes will be divided between the two missions.



Please join us to be His hands and feet as we join together to feed those in need in our community. It will be an evening you'll feel good about because you will be helping many.

This will be "A Taste of Italy" a delicious Italian buffet, Fox Hill Rolls, and make your own sundaes.

Tickets are \$12.00 Adult, \$5.00 ages 5 to 10, and **Free** ages 4 and under. One ticket needed per person. Please make checks payable to **the Montgomery Food Pantry** and notate on the check memo that it is for the "Feed His Sheep Dinner".

If willing to make a raffle basket please let Renee Schmidt or Carol Ann Freeman know.

Also to purchase tickets see Joe/Renee Schmidt (845-457-3867) or the church office (845-778-5405).

Even if you can not attend please buy tickets for this event and treat some one to dinner—A nice gift to pass on to someone.

Thank you,  
*Joe & Renee Schmidt*

### **Sister In Christ**



Nancy Orndorff has landed in Florida. She is enjoying the weather. She said it is cooler than she would like, and hasn't been in the pool yet which is in the backyard. Yet, she said when she sees/hears the temps up here the weather is Great in Lake Worth. It would be nice if she got mail from those of us on the Hill. This is the address she is at until her home is completed. The date her address will change is in April or May. Until then she can be reached at: Nancy Orndorff, 4750 Exeter Estate Lane, Lake Worth, Florida 33449.

Thank you,  
*The Share and Care Group*

## **Big Turnaround in 2016 Financial Envelope Giving Numbers**

In a reversal of not meeting our envelope giving goals for the past 3 years, I'm happy to report that we are now experiencing a positive trend. So far we have made our weekly target goal 5 out of the first 6 weeks of this year. As Financial Secretary, who credits the offering to each family, I can surmise two reasons for this turnaround. First, more Church families have committed to consistent giving, where they make up for weeks they miss. Second, some families have taken a big step toward tithing (the Biblical standard of giving 10%). Some families have increased their giving by 50% and one Church family has even doubled the amount they gave last year.

The Bible says: "Whoever sows generously will reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make grace abound to you, so that in *all* things, at *all* times, having *all* that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2Cor 9: 6-8 NIV).

When we give what God tells you to, He'll give you back more. When you know that, it'll revolutionize your approach to giving. Paul the apostle isn't talking about people who are trying to get rich. He's talking about "cheerful givers" who want to finance God's purposes. He's saying not only is it safe to give, it's the way to greater blessing. That's especially good news for reluctant givers, because when you give something away it can feel like a loss. But contributing to God's work isn't giving something away. It's investing with a guaranteed return. A farmer who sows doesn't lose his seed, he gains a harvest. Can you imagine a farmer praying this prayer? 'God, give me a crop. I'm trusting You to get involved, but I'm holding on to my seed just in case.' Is that what you're doing? If so, here's some good news. When you sow generously, God gets involved in your finances. Can you imagine a more secure position to be in? When you give, it enables God to return to you even more, which in turn enables you to give even more-and round and round it goes!

Thank you, *David Blasch*

## **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a special Congregational meeting on April 3rd during Soup & Bread. This will be a brainstorming meeting. We will break down into 4 or 5 groups and will brainstorm on ideas for reaching out to our neighbors. Each group will share their three best ideas.

Thank you, *The Consistory*





## HEARTS FOR HUNGARY

Early this March, Bill and I will be going to Hungary. The spring trip to Hungary has become very important because the summer trips are dedicated to teaching English from the moment we arrive to the moment we leave, and there is little time for anything else. The March trip provides me the opportunity to talk with ministry partners about how existing English programs can be adjusted and grow, and provides a time to meet people (missionaries and Hungarian church people) who may want to be part of the summer English teaching programs. It's been awhile since Bill has been to Hungary, so he'll be meeting many new people.

The summer English programs for children continue to grow - sometimes it seems out of control! Last summer was the first time a program was presented at a newly formed Baptist school in Debrecen as an "experiment" to see if it would fit into their school's mission. It was really successful, and now I am trying to convince the school that we should grow slowly so that the program retains its quality.

The program in Gyula continues to be very successful. Last year we tried to have a second primary teacher for 2 of the classes, but that didn't work out so well as there was a noticeable difference in the quality of the two programs offered. We are going back to me being the curriculum developer and primary teacher for all the children's levels (4) so there is consistency. There will be meetings about how to best structure the classes and schedule the teaching day.

Bonita D'Amil will be joining me again as my teaching assistant for the summer children's programs. She will also be a primary teacher for one of the adult levels, so I will be guiding her through lesson planning and preparation. It is a joy and pleasure to work with her.

It seems that I have been working on my MEd in TESOL forever (I call it the "slow boat to China" approach), but I'll finally finish and graduate in May - provided I pass the 6-hour essay comprehensive exam. You can pray about that!

In April I'll be attending the International TESOL convention in Baltimore; and in addition, the conference of a newly developed entity called CELEA [Christian English Language Educators Association] which is a non-profit organization that seeks to bring together TESOL educators both within the education sector and sectors outside of education such as missions, training centers, non-profits, etc. I've been told by others who have attended in the past that these conventions are really wonderful and I am looking forward to going. One of my primary interests in attending is to network and find out how to make my curriculum available to other groups who have English teaching as their ministry.

So, WE have been at this Hearts for Hungary ministry for 9 years now! Thank you for the many ways you have supported me - your enthusiasm, your words of encouragement, the provision of supplies, the making of gifts for giving, the financial support, the prayers . . . and much more. My prayer is that God's love and grace will be evident to those who are touched by our ministry.

*Carol Ann Freeman*

### **The Share and Care Group on the Hill**

We will be meeting on Communion Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall following soup and bread plus Birthday cake for those having a birthday in March. This group always has room for more people that may be interested in reaching out to others through cards, calls or visits to those that want a visit. We send birthday cards, Anniversary cards, Miss You, Thinking of You, Thank-You, Get-Well, etc. Hope to see you ! God- Bless,

*Renee Schmidt*



### **Vacation Bible School**



Cindi and Ernie Davis will be the coordinators for this summer's VBS program - they haven't chosen a date or a program yet, but will be having an organizational meeting in March some time. Their house phone # is (845) 895-5756 if anyone is interested in helping please call or see them in church.

There is something for everyone to do - we all have gifts. - even if it's praying each night from home.

### **Lenten Series**

The Reformed Churches of The Wallkill Valley invite you to join us for a time of fellowship and worship during Lent. All are welcome.

We will be expounding on the Movie and Bible Study from the movie "War Room."

Lenten Series Schedule:

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>---New Hurley Reformed Church

Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>---New Prospect Reformed Church

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>---Palm Sunday---Gardiner Reformed Church

*Soup & Sandwiches @ 5pm, followed by Service @ 6pm.*

Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>---Easter Sunrise---Wallkill Reformed Church

*Service will be @ 7:00am. Breakfast & fellowship will follow the service.*



## NEWBURGH MINISTRY

The Newburgh Ministry is housed in a two story building at 9 Johnston Street, just off Broadway. The second floor, known as Winterhaven, has 19 beds for sheltering homeless people. There are showers and a kitchen available also. It is open 326 days a year. Some items that Winterhaven can use are bed spreads, pillows (standard size), flip flops, bath robes (uni-sex), hot/cold cereal, canned goods, bottled juice.

The first floor is a welcoming center that is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Monday through Friday. Here people can enjoy free coffee or tea, use the telephone, shop at the Thrift Store, play dominoes or Scrabble, read the newspaper, receive help in completing forms, get referrals, or find a listening ear.

The Thrift Store has quality used clothing for babies to adults, shoes, and small household items for reasonable prices. Personal hygiene items (such as toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, baby diapers), and blankets, sheets and towels are also provided when they are available.

There is a basket in Fellowship Hall in which you may place any donations. I periodically take them to the Ministry. If you have any questions, please call me at 778-3336 or you can call the Ministry directly at 561-0070. Thank you, *Barbara Heitz*

### WISH LIST

#### **Hygiene Supplies**

- Toilet Paper
- Razors and shaving cream
- Soap, lotion, deodorant and body powder
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Mouthwash, dental floss
- Feminine hygiene products
- Baby formula
- Diapers (especially sizes 4, 5, or 6) and wipes

#### **Hospitality Area Needs**

- Decaf coffee and decaf tea
- 8 oz. paper hot cups
- Jars of non-dairy creamer
- Packets of sugar and sugar substitute
- Reading glasses (1.5, 2.0, 2.5)

#### **Winterhaven Needs**

##### **Bedding**

- Twin size
  - \* Mattress covers
  - \* Bed spreads
  - \* Mattresses
- Pillows (standard size)

##### **Laundry Supplies**

- Liquid detergent
- Bleach
- Laundry baskets

##### **Clothing**

- Bath robes (unisex)
- Pajamas (unisex)
- Flip-flops

#### **Winterhaven Needs, Continued**

##### **Food**

- Milk
- Hot/cold cereal
- Packaged food
- Canned goods (ravioli, soups, fruits, vegetables)
- Frozen food (including juices)
- Bottled water, juice, soda
- Prepared meals

#### **Thrift Store Needs**

##### **Household Items**

- Blankets, sheets (All Sizes)
- Towels
- Pots and pans
- Utensils, can openers
- Small household items

##### **Clothing**

- New underwear (Women, Men & Children)
- Children
  - \*Infant clothing
  - \*Children's shoes
  - \*Children's clothing
- Adults– Men and Women
  - \*Shoes
  - \*Sneakers

##### **Seasonal Items**

##### **Winter**

- Winter coats
- Warm Blankets
- Warm Clothes
- Hats and Gloves
- Rain Ponchos
- Umbrellas

**Prayer, volunteers and financial donations are always welcome!**



**1st ANNUAL OPENHOUSE**  
**Celebrating**

**Valley Central Back Pack Snack Attack**

**&**

**Introducing**

**Youth Group**

**We invite you to take a tour & see what we do!**

**We also will have pre-registration for the up coming**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Group beginning this April!**

**Friday March 18, 2016 6pm-8pm**

**Saturday March 19, 2016 4pm-6pm**

**Location: First Reformed Church**

**70 Scofield Street Walden, NY 12586**



## Easter Flower Orders



Won't you help decorate the sanctuary with flowers for Easter Sunday? Flower availability and prices are listed below.

Flowers may be given in memory of someone or in honor of someone or something. You may take your flowers home with you after Easter Sunday service (March 27th).

**The deadline for ordering will be Friday, March 18th.**

\$7.00 Price

Single White Lily \_\_\_\_\_

6" Hyacinths \_\_\_\_\_

6" Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

\$9.00 Price

8" Hyacinth \_\_\_\_\_

8" Tulip \_\_\_\_\_

8" Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

8" Mum \_\_\_\_\_

\$12.00 Price

Small Azalea \_\_\_\_\_

Double White Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

10" Hyacinths \_\_\_\_\_

Medium Colored Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 Price

10" Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

Large Colored Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

\$20.00 Price

Triple White Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

Large Hydrangea \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you will be picking up your plant after Easter Service

# 2016 MARCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	2  5:45 Packing Snack Attack	3	4	5  7:30 Men's Breakfast
6 10:00 Worship 11:00 Soup & Bread 5:00 Lenten Series -New Hurley	7	8 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	9  5:45 Packing Snack Attack	10	11	12  7:30 Men's Breakfast
13 <b>Daylight Savings</b> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship  5:00 Lenten Series -New Prospect	14	15 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	16  5:45 Packing For Snack Attack	17  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>  7:00 Consistory	18 <b>Deadline for ordering Easter Flowers</b>  <b>6:00-8:00 Youth Group Open House</b>	19 7:30 Men's Breakfast  <b>4:00-6:00 Youth Group Open House</b>
20 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 Lenten Series -Gardiner	21  Yesterday was the 1st day of Spring	22 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	23	24 <b>Maunday Thursday</b>  <b>Sign up for the Maunday Thursday Prayer Vigil</b>	25  <b>Good Friday</b>  <b>7:30 Tenebrae Service</b>	26  7:30 Men's Breakfast
27 <b>EASTER</b> Sunrise service Walkkill, 7 am  10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	28	29 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	30  5:45 Packing For Snack Attack	31		



# 2016 APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:30 Men's Breakfast
3 10:00 Worship 11:00 Soup & Bread/ Cake  <u>Congregational Brainstorming Meeting</u>	4	5 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	6 5:45 Packing For Snack Attack	7  <b>Bell Articles &amp; calendar items for May/June Bell are due.</b>	8	9 7:30 Men's Breakfast
10 10:00 Worship  11:00 Fellowship	11	12 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	13 5:45 Packing For Snack Attack	14	15	16 7:30 Men's Breakfast  <b>Feed His Sheep Mission Dinner</b>
17 10:00 Worship  11:00 Fellowship	18	19 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	20 5:45 Packing For Snack Attack	21 7:00 Consistory Meeting	22	23 7:30 Men's Breakfast
24 10:00 Worship  11:00 Fellowship	25	26 6:45 Bell Choir 7:00 Praise Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	27 5:45 Packing For Snack Attack	28	29	30 7:30 Men's Breakfast

## Daily Walk Bible Devotion, submitted by Joe Schmidt

# March 7

REFLECTION & WORSHIP

## Leading the Way



Day 67

**LOOK BACK** Last month we read about Moses' leadership of God's people. Now we've just finished the book of Joshua, in which God calls Joshua to fill Moses' sandals. Leadership transitions are never easy. Any time a leader of Moses' stature and longevity passes from the scene, there is good reason for the followers to wonder how the new leader will compare with his predecessor. Will he be kind or cruel? Will he walk in the footsteps of the one before him? Will he have his own agenda or follow God faithfully?

What ultimately allowed a smooth transition from Moses to Joshua was the nation's realization that their true leader had never changed. The Lord had led Israel through Moses, his servant, and now the Lord would lead Israel through his servant Joshua. So continued the pattern of servant leadership the nation had known for forty years. After a fitting farewell for Moses, Joshua led the nation on a memorable crossing of the flood-swollen Jordan River and began a seven-year campaign to conquer and drive out the inhabitants of the Promised Land. Out of a total of thirty-one battles, Joshua would lose only one (can you name it?)—a temporary setback quickly corrected.

**LOOK UP** In children's games, anyone can be a leader. For instance, in a game like *Follow the Leader*, everyone takes a turn.

But what about leadership in the household of faith? Who are the leaders? Are leaders made or born? And how do you know when you have the qualifications for leadership?

Regardless of your present role of leadership or "followership" in the family of God, it is a worthy ambition to obtain more leadership responsibilities (1 Timothy 3:1). But leadership is not for everyone. In fact, the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 may surprise you. They have nothing to do with your net worth, your degrees, or the number of civic clubs you belong to. Leadership isn't something to be earned. It is a recognition of spiritual maturity, proven character, and the reputation you have developed both inside and outside the church.

If you aspire to be a leader in ministry within the family of God, then ask yourself, "How well have I managed the other responsibilities I have been entrusted with? Have I managed well my physical body, my mind, my family, my resources, my tongue, my reputation? Am I hospitable, teachable, mature, worthy of respect, self-controlled, honest in all my dealings, worthy of respect?" If the answer to these questions is yes, then an expanded leadership role may be appropriate for you.

**LOOK AHEAD** Regardless of whether an enlarged leadership responsibility may be in your future, the attitude of a servant-leader ought to be your ambition. Listen to this exhortation from the apostle Peter: "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are *willing*, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but *eager* to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being *examples* to the flock. . . . All of you, *clothe* yourselves with *humility* toward one another" (1 Peter 5:2-5, emphasis added).

BE CAREFUL IF YOU  
THINK YOU ARE  
LEADING PEOPLE—  
THEY MAY BE  
CHASING YOU.

**Daily Walk Bible Devotion, submitted by Joe Schmidt**

April 5

▶ READ 1 KINGS 17–19

Ahab's Battle with Elijah



☐ Day 96

**OVERVIEW**

Without fanfare or announcement, the prophet Elijah comes on the scene of Israel's history to predict a severe drought during the reign of King Ahab. At the peak of the drought, the prophet returns to challenge Ahab and the prophets of Baal to a "battle of the gods" on Mount Carmel. In a fiery display of power and majesty, God consumes the offering of Elijah's sacrifice, and even the wood, stones, dirt, and water around it, proving to the onlooking nation that he alone is the Lord God. When the news of Elijah's victory reaches Queen Jezebel, she vows to end his life. Once again the prophet returns to seclusion where God ministers to his exhausted and discouraged servant.

CHAPTER 17	CHAPTER 18	CHAPTER 19
Elijah and the widow of Zarephath	Elijah and the prophets of Baal	Elijah and the fear of Jezebel
God's provision	God's power	God's persistence

**MY DAILY WALK**

When was the last time you suffered a bout of depression or self-pity? Do you remember what caused it? How long did it last? What finally helped you to overcome it?

In 1 Kings 19 you will see Elijah in one of those blue moods, his thoughts filled with self-pity: "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. . . . I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too" (19:10). Did you notice when the prophet of God fell into the doldrums of depression? It was immediately after one of the greatest spiritual victories of his life. He had just confronted wicked Ahab and 450 of his pagan prophets and won by a score of 450 to nothing.

Think back to the last low time in your walk with God. What happened immediately before it? Were you perhaps physically or emotionally drained from ministering to the needs of others? Elijah found strength to continue by hearing the gentle whisper of God (19:12). Spend some extra moments in prayer and meditation today.

**TO HATCH DESPAIR, JUST BROOD OVER YOUR TROUBLES.**

**INSIGHT**

*The Prophet Is the Message | 1 Kgs. 18:39*

When God burned Elijah's sacrifice, the people began to chant "The LORD—he is God!" (18:39). Interestingly enough, Elijah's name means "The LORD is my God." Though the chant and the name would not have been pronounced exactly the same way, the impact of Elijah's ministry and the meaning of his name were the same.

## HYMN OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

### “Search Me, O God”

Words by J. Edwin Orr, Music by Edward J. Hopkins

1 Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
cleans me from every sin and set me free.

2 I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;  
fulfill thy Word and make me pure within.  
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;  
grant my desire to magnify thy name.

3 Lord, take my life, and make it wholly thine;  
fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.  
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord--in me abide.

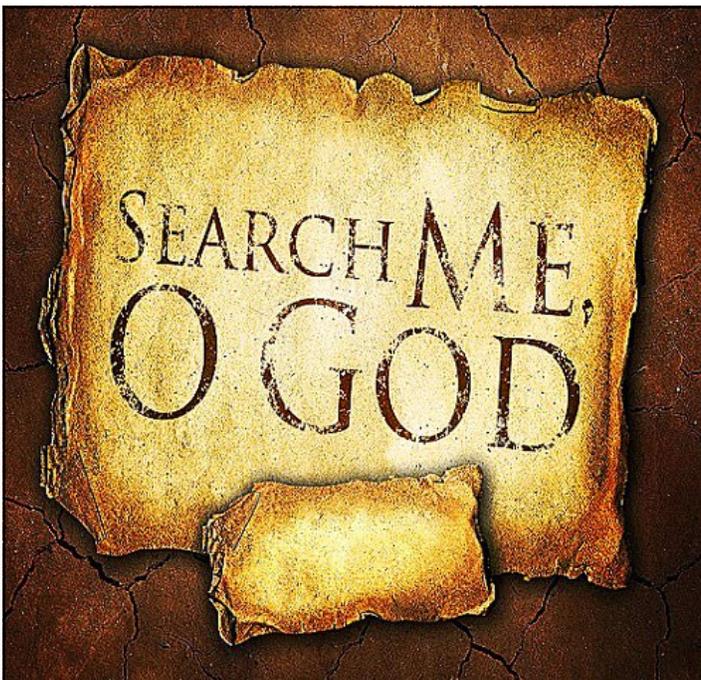
4 O Holy Spirit, revival comes from thee;  
send a revival--start the work in me.  
Thy Word declares thou wilt supply our need;  
for blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

Confession does not come easily. We do not want to reveal our inner selves to other people. Yet we keep no secrets from God. The Latin word *confessus* is derived from *confiteri* (*con*= with; *fiteri*= agree), which suggests that we “speak the same thing” or acknowledge what God already knows about us.

Psalm 139, the backdrop for this hymn, is intensely personal. “O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.... Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord” (vs. 1-4, st. 1). We only must open our hearts to his all-seeing eye and accept the cleaning he offers.

We then rise with praise for forgiveness and cleansing. We ask to exchange the burning of a “bad conscience” for the fire of his love— a passion for righteousness. We want to magnify the name of God rather than to live according to our own selfish and sinful desires (st. 2)

Surrender of our “will, our passion, and pride” to God’s purpose means an openness to his Spirit (st. 3) This is the beginning of personal revival, of “new life” of “flourishing again: spiritually. Further, the presence of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives is the beginning of God’s renewing work in our churches (st. 4).



## HYMN OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

### “One Day”

Words by Wilbur J. Chapman, Music by Charles H. Marsh

1 One day when heaven was filled with his praises,  
one day when sin was as black as could be,  
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin,  
dwelt among us, my example is he!

[Refrain:]

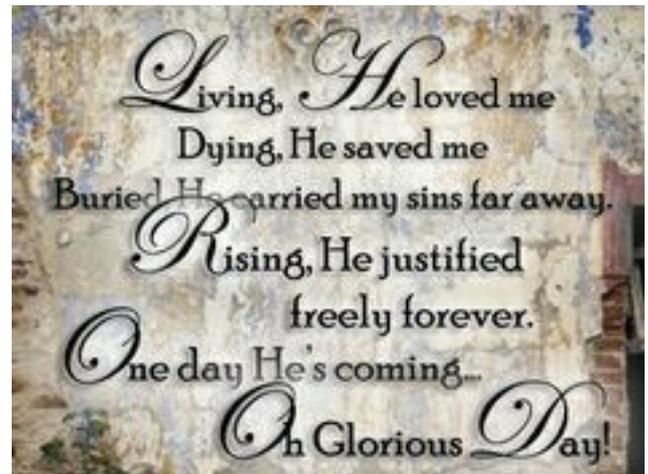
Living, he loved me; dying, he saved me;  
buried, he carried my sins far away;  
rising, he justified freely forever:  
one day he's coming—O glorious day!

2 One day they led him up Calvary's mountain,  
one day they nailed him to die on the tree;  
suffering anguish, despised and rejected,  
bearing our sins, my Redeemer is he! (Refrain)

3 One day they left him alone in the garden,  
one day he rested, from suffering free;  
angels came down o'er his tomb to keep vigil;  
hope of the hopeless, my Savior is he! (Refrain)

4 One day the grave could conceal him no longer,  
one day the stone rolled away from the door;  
then he arose, over death he had conquered,  
now is ascended, my Lord evermore! (Refrain)

5 One day the trumpet will sound for his coming,  
one day the skies with his glories will shine;  
wonderful day, my beloved ones bringing;  
glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine! (Refrain)



Through the incarnation, God broke into human history and acted in the framework of time and space which humans understand. Jesus' life and death demonstrated his identification with humanity, while his resurrection transcended human limitations. "One Day" projects four scenes from the life of Jesus against the scale of human history and looks forward to another.

This text shows a remarkable consistency of structure. Each stanza begins as though telling a familiar story. It recounts an event and ascribes to Jesus a title which captures the significance of that event. Stanza 1 tells of Jesus birth and life on earth; he is called "Example". The second records the crucifixion and names him "Redeemer." In Stanza 3, he is called "Savior" on the day when he lay in the tomb. Stanza 4 combines resurrection and ascension and hails him as "Lord." The last stanza looks ahead to his return and repeats the title "Savior" alongside "Jesus," the given name with the same meaning. The refrain offers an even more concentrated treatment of this outline: living, dying, buried, rising, coming.



**THE SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING AND SERVING**  
**A Ministry of the Mid-Hudson and Orange Classes**  
**SPRING 2016 COURSE OFFERINGS**

**COURSES:**

**Dignity and Grace in Dying:** (Ministers, Preaching Elders, Commissioned Pastors & candidates, General Interest)

End of Life care is changing in America – finally! Join in to learn about doulas, non-medical companions who walk the journey of birth and death with others. Discover how you can bring this new **End of Life Care Doula** program and training to the family members and caregivers in your own congregation. This course will review the basic paperwork of Advance Directives - Health Care Proxy, Living Will, DNR, and MOLST, and will also talk about **The Five Wishes** and how answering five simple questions can set the tone for a “good death”.

Instructor: Beverly Kipp is a Preaching Elder, a nurse with 35 years of clinical experience, a writer and inspirational speaker and an End of Life Care Doula. Currently she is the co-ordinator of Ladles and Loaves, a new soup and bread ministry for the hungry and the lonely of Northern Dutchess County at St. John’s Reformed Church.

Date: Saturday, April 2, 9:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

Location: Reformed Church of New Paltz, 92 Huguenot St., New Paltz, NY 12561

Tuition: \$20

**Preparing Children's Sermons:** (Ministers, Preaching Elders, Commissioned Pastors & candidates, General Interest)

Children’s sermons can be a challenge. Join us to gain a better understanding of preparing children's messages. We will discuss why children's sermons are included in worship, how to connect children to the Bible, review children's linguistic and conceptual understandings, discuss the pluses and minuses of using props and metaphors, and reflect on the art of story- telling to engage children. Please bring a favorite children's sermon to share.

Instructor: Janice Melichar-Utter is a Preaching Elder, a retired educator with 34 years in public education, formerly an adjunct at Mount St. Mary College, and has co-authored *Brain Friendly Study Strategies - How Teachers Help Students Learn* published by Corwin Press. Currently, she again chairs Christian Education at Fishkill Reformed Church and has taught Sunday school there for over 30 years.

Date: Saturday, April 9, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Location: Reformed Church of New Paltz, 92 Huguenot St., New Paltz, NY 12561

Tuition: \$12



### **SPRING 2016 COURSE OFFERINGS CONTINUED**

#### **Multi-Media course:** (Ministers, Preaching Elders, Commissioned Pastors & candidates, General Interest)

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Albert Potgeiter  
 Date: Wednesday, April 20, 7-9 p.m.  
 Location: Faith Reformed Church, 11 Centerville Rd., Slate Hill, NY 10973  
 Tuition: \$15

Just a few years ago the use of multimedia during worship was a novelty in many churches. Today it is often the standard. If you are feeling technically challenged and unable to take this on, then this course is for you. Don't miss out on ways to make your weekly message and time in worship with others more meaningful and engaging. Come and learn why it is important to enhance your worship service through multimedia, and how you can implement it to enrich the weekly gathering of God's people.

#### **Church History 2** (Preaching Elders, Commissioned Pastors & Candidates, General Interest)

Instructor: The Rev. James Brumm  
 Dates: Tuesdays, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, & 31 & June 7, 7-10 PM  
 Location: Hurley Reformed Church 11 Main Street, Hurley, NY 12443  
 Tuition: \$100 plus books and materials

In the 2000-year-long history of the church, the last 500 have become increasingly complex. This class will survey Christianity from the 16th-century Protestant Reformation to the present day, with specific attention to the Western and North American churches, with an awareness of the global church and the growing influence of the church in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Attention will be given to following larger themes and looking at primary-source documents.

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### **THE SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING AND SERVING REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Course Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

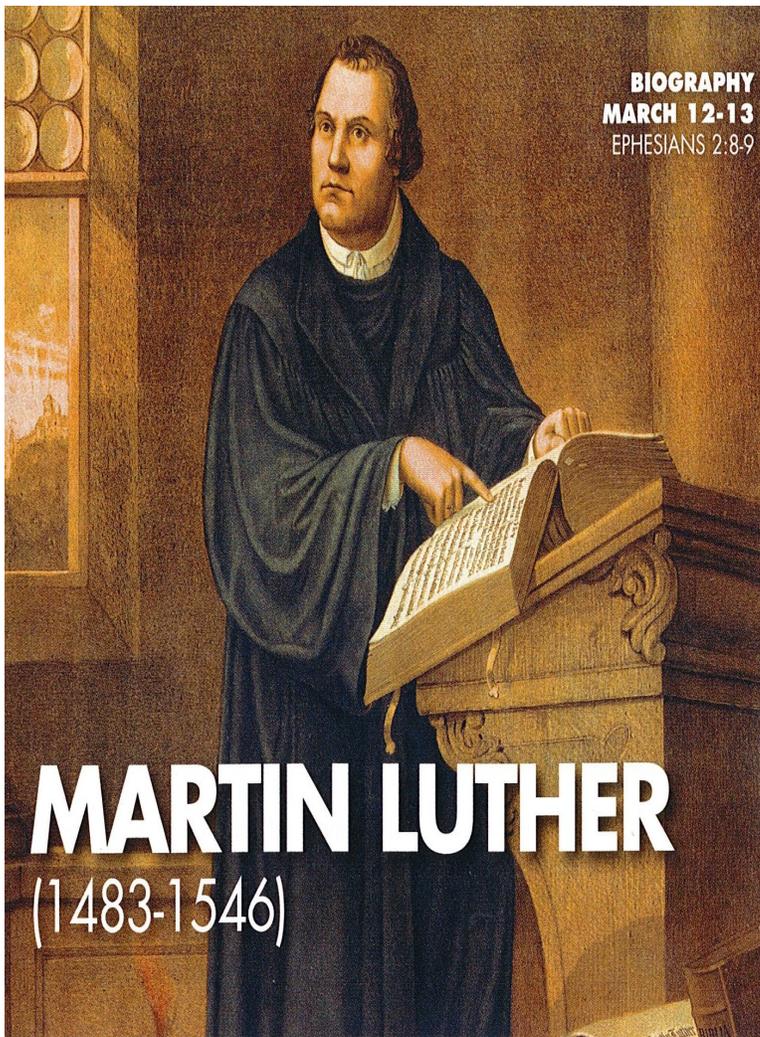
#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Mail: Desiree Albizu, SCLS  
 575 County Route 19  
 Hudson, NY 12534

Registrar Phone: (518) 537-4221

Email: [albizu@valstar.net](mailto:albizu@valstar.net)

Website: [www.thescls.org](http://www.thescls.org)



**BIOGRAPHY**  
**MARCH 12-13**  
 EPHESIANS 2:8-9

# MARTIN LUTHER

(1483-1546)

## Champion of Salvation

On October 31, 1517, a professor in the German town of Wittenberg nailed several sheets of paper, covered with his Latin handwriting, to the door of the town church.

His purpose was simply to open debate on some theological problems he had with the official church positions. Yet within a few years, he would become the best known figure in the European church.

Anyone claiming to be a Protestant can trace his roots back to this one man—Martin Luther—often considered to be larger than life because of his many gifts, his powerful personality, his commitment to Jesus Christ, and his impact on society.

Born in 1483 in Eisleben, Germany, Luther's early training and education prepared him to become a lawyer. But a terrifying experience in a thunderstorm at the age of 22 caused him to seek spiritual comfort.

*Submitted by Joe Schmidt*

Possessed of an acute sense of his own unworthiness before God, Luther felt that becoming a priest offered the best way to deal with the problem.

As the young priest received formal theological training, he began to lecture on the Bible, all the while wrestling with his own spiritual condition.

*How could he be saved?* The answer came with ringing clarity from the pages of Scripture: God saves those who look to Christ alone for their salvation and trust in nothing else.

Centuries of tradition and misunderstanding had allowed an unscriptural idea—that a person's works were the means of salvation—to creep into the teaching of the church. But Luther realized that salvation is the gift of God, not of works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Not long after his conversion, Luther nailed his *Ninety-five Theses* to the Wittenberg church door. What he said challenged the traditions that had caused him so much soul-searching and grief.

The storm of debate about salvation eventually raged throughout all of Europe. Luther was called to stand trial for his beliefs before church and secular courts. His reply was strong and sure—"Here I stand; I can do no other."

Luther desired that the message of salvation would pierce more hearts, so he translated the Bible into German—the language of the common people—and wrote pamphlets that were widely distributed by his followers. He wrote hymns (including "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"), developed worship services, and preached the Word of God.

The Protestant Reformation, which was spawned in large measure by his godly commitment, did more than form new Christian denominations. It affected family life, politics, the arts, and education. And all because one man boldly declared the true meaning of salvation in Jesus Christ. By the time of his death in 1546, Luther's impact could be neither denied nor ignored.

Every generation needs more Martin Luthers—Christians of commitment and courage who know what they believe and can defend those beliefs by word and deed.

In fact, men and women like Martin Luther are in short supply today. But you can help change that. Determining to believe and obey God's Word and to walk closer to Him—regardless of popular opinion—is the place to begin.

*A lesson from the life of Martin Luther: When I am sure of what I believe, I will have the courage to stand against error.*



## FROM THE REGIONAL SYNOD OF NEW YORK

### *Lenten Greetings from the Executive Minister...*

It never fails that someone will ask me, "What are you giving up for Lent this year?" My answer is always the same, "I am studying Chapter 58 of Isaiah as my Lenten devotion and spiritual discipline." That isn't usually the answer the person was hoping for. I then try to explain that through this study each year God teaches me something new about sacrifice, discipline, obedience, and faith and that I am sure this year will be no different. I tell them I pray that my heart and mind will be opened to a new insight and a new delight in the Lord.

Usually, they just wanted to hear that I am giving up chocolate or coffee because that's the "usual" way to observe Lent. Or, if you want to be able to say you gave up something delicious to please God. I'm sure God is pleased whenever we sacrifice ourselves for the sake of a deeper faith or leaning into obedience, whatever that may look like for each of us.

Isaiah has told us what sort of sacrifice is pleasing to God – a sacrifice that serves someone in need:

*"Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"*

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am."*

It is my great hope that everyone will find blessing in their Lenten sacrifice, whatever that may be. May you experience the presence of God as we walk together as Christians toward the day of Resurrection.  
--Amy Nyland

### Upcoming Events

**RCA INTERFAITH INITIATIVES...** World Vision and the RCA are co-hosting an event on **April 12, 2016, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.** to increase understanding of the Israel-Palestine history and conflict, as well as ways to advocate for being pro-Israeli, pro-Palestinian, pro- Peace and pro- Jesus. All are welcome to this no-cost experience. The location is 475 Riverside Drive, NYC. Watch for more information.

### ***Journey with sisters in Christ on the third annual Women's Sankofa, April 28-30, 2016.***

Join women from the RCA for a two-day, two-night trip. As we travel to women's historic and spiritual landmarks of the Hudson Valley and Central New York State, we'll explore our rich history and share our stories. Along the way we'll build relationships and have deep conversations. We'll pray, reflect, and worship as we celebrate a rich legacy of faith. Contact Rev. Liz Testa, *Director of Women's Transformation & Leadership, RCA* at [testa@rca.org](mailto:testa@rca.org) for details.

### ***HOPE COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT, Fishkill Reformed Church, Friday March 18th, 7:00 p.m.***

**Hope College** is one of the three RCA liberal arts colleges. Their Chapel Choir founded in 1938, is the college's premiere choral ensemble, made up of 40 auditioned singers. There will be a free-will offering and a reception following the concert. For more information, call 845-896-9836.

The Choir will perform at **The Clavarack Reformed Church, Clavarack, NY on Sunday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.** and at **St. Paul's Chapel, NYC, Tuesday, March 22, 1:00-1:30 p.m.**

### ***JAZZ AT LYALL, Millbrook, Saturday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.***

**PAUL MEYERS-WORLD ON A STRING TRIO** – Paul is an excellent American jazz guitarist who has also working studied Brazilian musical traditions.

On **Saturday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.** **THE JAZZ AMBASSADORS REUNITED** - In 2001 this Trio was selected by the US State Department to represent the music of Louis Armstrong on a two-month tour of 11 nations in West Africa. Now 15 years later they will revisit that music. For more information, call the church 845-677-3485.

# Around the Congregation

## Church Prayer List

### Joys & Concerns:

Ray Turse  
 Lisa Skinner  
 Samuel Shorter III  
 Dave Williams  
 Ed Kennedy  
 Michael Shorter  
 Isabel Jacobsen



### Nursing Home/Homebound:

Leah Ronk; Jane Barber.

### Military Personnel:

Christopher Vermilyea, Lt Col. John M. Nash, USMC, and all of those who have served in our Military.



### Gary & Jane Knapp

March 3rd

### Nicholas & Nancy Petrolo

March 22nd

### Dominic & Judy Bonasio

March 31st

### Rob & Annette Bittner

April 29th



## March

Steve Francisco	March 3
Jaymee Barringer	March 7
Justin Lendle	March 8
Angel Santana Jr.	March 9
Katerina Weikel	March 12
Lucas Barringer	March 16
Annalise Cardish	March 19
Elizabeth Cocks	March 22
Emily Davis	March 23

## April

Ethan Jacobsen	April 1
Mel Wesenberg	April 1
Rev. Ken Tenckinck	April 3
John Daniel Harrington	April 5
Layla Schmidt	April 9
John Harrington	April 10
Bryanna DeMartini	April 11
Debbie Brady	April 15
Pastor Jim O'Connell	April 15
Cindi Davis	April 16
Shawn Sawyer	April 18
Peter Walther	April 18
Lynnea Jacobsen	April 29

## Classical Assessment

- The 2016 Classical Assessment is \$120 This Assessment is per Church member, not per family. First Reformed pays this Assessment to Orange Classis. Please use your Classical Assessment envelope found in your envelope packet to offset this cost. It can be paid in one lump sum or in four quarterly payments.
- Thank you, *David Blasch*

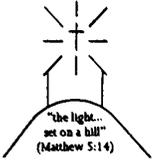


### Recent offerings:

Jan 3rd— \$2,140  
 Jan 10th— \$2,095  
 Jan 17th— \$2,129  
 Jan 24th— \$1,740  
 Jan 31st— \$2,115  
 Feb 7th— \$2,808  
 Feb 14th— \$1,310.41  
 Feb 21st— \$1,715

### Weekly goal:

\$1923  
 \$1923  
 \$1923  
 \$1923  
 \$1923  
 \$1923  
 \$1923  
 \$1923



*The First Reformed Church*  
70 Scofield Street  
Walden, New York 12586

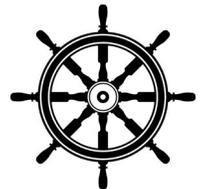
845-778-5405 Phone

frchurch@frontiernet.net

## **THE PRAYER WHEEL**

This article was in our March 1, 2004 Church Bell Newsletter.

So just like a real wheel it is coming around again!



Of all the free gifts we may receive, PRAYER is the very best one..... There are no costs, but wonderful rewards ..... Let's continue praying for one another!

Father, I ask you to bless my friends and family reading this right now. I am asking You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubting, release a renewed confidence in Your ability to work through them. Where there is self-doubting, release a renewed confidence in Your ability to work through them. Where there is tiredness, or exhaustion, I ask You to give them understanding, patience and strength as they learn submission to your leading. Where there is spiritual stagnation, I ask You to renew them by revealing Your nearness, and by drawing them into greater intimacy with You. Where there is fear, reveal Your love, and release to them Your courage. Where there is a sin blocking them, reveal it and break its hold over my friend's/loved ones life. Bless their finances, give them greater vision and raise up leaders and friends to support and encourage them. Give each of them discernment to recognize the evil forces around them, and reveal to them the power they have in You to defeat it. I ask You to do these things in Jesus' name.

In Love, *A caring person*