

*The*

# *Church Bell*

The First Reformed  
Church  
Walden, New York

Volume 62, Issue I  
Jan-Feb 2018

## **I See The Light**

The new year is upon us and we have opportunity to call it a new beginning. In the church calendar we call this season Epiphany, you know that lightbulb moment when you suddenly are aware of something new. That is the sense of this season; something new is happening. It coincides with the return of the sun leading to longer days, along with the lectionary focusing on the beginning of Jesus' ministry. There is an emphasis on the light of Christ going out to the world and not just the Jewish communities.

It is a time of year when many people make pledges of self-improvement, or resolutions, or set goals for the year. Since you are reading this you probably have a goal to attend church as often as possible. So my saying make worship a priority is really preaching to the choir, it is something you already have as part of your weekly pattern. That said, consider making a goal to bring one new family into the life of First Reformed Church over the next 12 months so that they can have an Epiphany of God's love, Christ's forgiveness and the Holy Spirit's power. There is no greater feeling than seeing new people in worship and involved in the life of the Church. It is what this season is about.

On the farm I've been preparing for planting season by looking back at last years sales and harvest records. Then I look at the many seed catalogues that come in the mail to find and order the seeds and plants that match up with my goals for 2018. I have a plan for each month leading up to summer when I hope to have great produce for sale.

Jesus gives us a plan and goals that can help us be more effective in sharing the good news. The plan includes us looking back over last year and recognizing all the many times God helped us, encouraged us, strengthened us and provided for us. I call these God-incidents or kingdom moments. These moments and memories are powerful medicine for our faith growth and for those who don't yet know of God's love and the welcoming nature of FRC. This is the simple plan, share your story of how Christ is affecting your life and helping you in all areas of your life. These stories, your stories have tremendous power to shed light on how God can make a difference for the better in the lives of those who don't yet know him. The goal is no different than that of Christ's disciples who were sent out a number of times to declare the good news and bring peace to as many people as possible.

So, as this new year beckons and the possibilities are limitless before us, let us join together to intentionally share the light of Christ, thereby kicking off the year with many new epiphany moments and prayerfully welcome many more people in to the living body of Christ. Remember that with God all things are possible.

*In Christ, Pastor Jim*

### **Sunday**

**9:00 AM**

Children's Sunday  
School

**10:00 AM**

Sunday Worship

Communion/  
Soup & Bread/  
*1st Sunday of every month*

**11:00 AM**

Fellowship

### **Tuesday**

**7:00 PM**

Praise Team

**7:30 PM**

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **Wednesday**

**5:45 PM**

Packing for Snack Attack

### **Thursday**

**7:00 PM**

Consistory Meetings  
*Third Thursday of Month*

### **Friday**

**6:00 PM**

Youth Group

### **Saturday**

**7:30 AM**

Men's Breakfast &  
Devotional

### **January**

**13th-** Consistory  
Retreat

### **February**

**14th-** Ash Wednesday  
Services. See page 2 for  
Lenten Series Schedule.

**15th-** All Articles and all  
Calendar information for  
March/April Church Bell



## **Lent begins February 14.**

This year Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent comes a little early. We will have a morning prayer service with the imposition of ashes for those who are interested in Crist Chapel at 7:30 AM.

The Wallkill Valley RCA churches will again be holding special services for the season of Lent. This marks the 80<sup>th</sup> year of these gatherings. The context for the lessons will be based on the book by Brant Hansen, Blessed are the Misfits, an interesting and different look at the church. Ash Wednesday 2/14, at 7 PM will be in Wallkill with the Rev. Seagren preaching. The remaining services will start with a soup and sandwich meal at 5PM followed by worship at 6 PM.

Lent I 2/18 at Wallkill, the Rev Kobza preaching, Lent II 2/25 at New Hurley, the Rev. O'Connell preaching, Lent III 3/4 at Gardner, the Elder Mallard preaching, Lent IV 3/11 here at Walden, the Rev. Sissel preaching, Lent V 3/18 at Shawangunk, the Elder Ronk preaching, Lent VI 4/9 at New Prospect, the Rev. Dalton preaching. There will be a handout in the bulletin as we get closer to Lent.

## **Preaching Schedule for January and February**

### **January 7**

Children's: More than Just Water

Sermon: The Baptism of Jesus

Hymn of month #369 Lord of All Hopefulness

**Genesis 1:1-5**

**Mark 1:4-11**

### **January 14**

Installation of Consistory

Children's: Follow Jesus

Sermon: A Higher Calling

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Samuel 1-10

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**John 1:43-51**

### **January 21**

Children's: Fishy Business

Sermon: Left Behind

Psalm 65: 5-12

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Corinthians 7:29-31

**Mark 1:14-20**

### **January 28**

Psalm 111

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**Mark 1:21-28**

### **February 4**

Children's Power

Sermon: Power Over Brokenness

Month #555 More Love to Thee, O Christ

Closing #708 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Isaiah 40:21-31

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

**Mark 1:29-39**

### **February 11**

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Kings 2:1-12

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

**Mark 9:2-9**

### **Wednesday February 14**

#### **February 18**

First Sunday of Lent

Psalm 25:1-10

Genesis 9:8-17

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

#### **February 25**

Lent 2

Psalm 22:23-31

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

## MANY THANKS!

As the Christmas season draws to a close, there are so many people to thank for helping to make Christmas at First Reformed so memorable.

Many hands helped with the decorating of the church for Hanging of the Greens. Thanks to Jeff Reichle and Joe Weikel for getting the tree and setting it up. Snezana did a wonderful job preparing our meal for that evening with assistance from Phyllis O'Connell. Thanks, too, to Cindi Davis, Deb Vermilyea, Michelle Jacobsen, Dot Reichle and John Nash for providing food and desserts. Betty Cocks and Mary Mentz decorated the candles in the sanctuary. Helping to make the boxwood stars were Adele Davis, Karen Lendle, Michelle Jacobsen, Pastor Jim, Jane Hughes, Judy Bonasio, Dominic Bonasio. Thanks to Morgan Jacobsen and Isabel Jacobsen for working with the children to create the paper chain. John Harrington made sure that the Nativity scene made by George Heitz got set up on the front lawn.

Other people assisting in other ways were Bill and Carol Ann Freeman, Ed and Susan Kennedy, Jim Reichle, Doug Hughes and John Nash. Many hands accomplished the tasks quickly.

Helpers with setting up the poinsettia display were Ethan and Isabel Jacobsen. Didn't they do a great job?

Special music during the Christmas services was provided by Jane Hughes, Michelle Jacobsen, Morgan Jacobsen, Isabel Jacobsen, Jenny Crist-Kohn, Dan Harrington, Kevin Harrington and Matt Harrington. We are so blessed to have such talented musicians among us.

Choir members did an exceptional job singing for both 10 am and 11 pm services on Christmas Eve as well as helping at the 7 pm service. Their unselfish dedication of time is truly appreciated.

As we reflect on how beautiful the Christmas season has been, let us look forward to an equally meaningful Lenten season and Easter! Thank you, Bunnie Reichle



## Soup and Bread for 2018

We have a special time of Fellowship the 1st Sunday of every month. It is Communion and following church service we have soup and bread followed by a cake or cupcakes for those people celebrating their birthday that month. Our 2018 kick-off is on January 7th. Every 1st Sunday there is a table full of delicious soups to try.



## Personal Invitation



Churches that fulfill their call to minister to the best of their ability do so through personal invitation, welcome, and follow-up. Most churches are happy with the size of their ministry even when they say they want to grow. The reason is that growth requires change and we don't like to rock the boat, so rather than grow we allow attrition to slowly eat away at the ministry God

has planned for us to embrace. We find it easy to grumble about space, no one to do the jobs, money, no Organist or Sexton. But, in truth these things are the signs of a dying church. Like with plants, if the church isn't growing it is likely to die soon if it isn't already dead. The fastest way to get back in the grow is starting to grow yourself, inviting others to grow with you, welcoming new people, and their ideas, and following up with them to see how they are experiencing life in the Hill Church. Ask someone to join you in worship, study, fellowship and service at FRC. You will be blessed for the effort.

January's Hymn of the month  
**LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS**

Words by Jan Struther, and Music a Traditional Irish Melody

*If For you have been my hope, O Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. (Psalms 71:5)*



This hymn text is the work of a celebrated author, who is best known for her novel Mrs. Miniver. Her maiden name was Joyce Anstruther, from which evolved the pen name Jan Struther.

A quite-personal prayer for the entire day, Jan Struther's "Lord of All Hopefulness" speaks to our needs as we wake, work, return home, and sleep. Its words of hope, strength, love, and peace portray God as the Lord over all our needs and activities. He is the Lord who brings joy, faith, grace, and calm. At our waking, this Lord brings hope for what the day holds (st. 1). In our work, he gives us eagerness for the labor; Jesus the carpenter was no stranger to the demands of work nor to the delight which can come from a job well done (st.2). As we return home from work, our Lord welcomes and embraces us with his kindness (st. 3), and in our sleep, he brings gentleness and contentment (st. 4). In the press of a busy life, it is good to reflect on the rhythm of work and rest suggested by these lines. It would be well to memorize the words in order to pray them throughout the day.

This prayer may be sung at any time of day as a meditation on the God of work and rest.



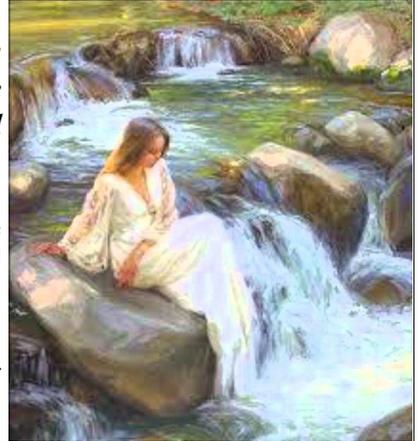
1. *Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*
2. *Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*
3. *Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*
4. *Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.*

February's Hymn of the month  
**MORE LOVE TO THEE**

Elizabeth Prentiss, 1818–1878

*And this is my prayer: That your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9–11)*

**To love Christ more is the deepest need, the constant cry of my soul ... out in the woods, and on my bed, and out driving, when I am happy and busy, and when I am sad and idle, the whisper keeps going up for more love, more love, more love!**



These were the words of Elizabeth Prentiss, wife of a Presbyterian minister and author of this hymn text. She was often described by her many friends as “a very bright-eyed little woman with a keen sense of humor, who cared more to shine in her own happy household than in a wide circle of society.” Although Elizabeth was strong in spirit, she was frail in body. Throughout her life she was almost an invalid, scarcely knowing a moment free of pain.

“More Love to Thee” was written by Mrs. Prentiss during a time of great personal sorrow, following the loss of two children in a short period of time. For weeks Elizabeth was inconsolable. In her diary she wrote, “empty hands, a worn-out, exhausted body, and unutterable longings to flee from a world that has so many sharp experiences.”

During this period of grief, Mrs. Prentiss began meditating upon the story of Jacob in the Old Testament. She noted how God met him in a very special way during his moments of sorrow and need. Elizabeth prayed earnestly that she too might have a similar experience. While she was meditating and praying one evening, these four stanzas were born—words that have since become a universal prayer for devout believers everywhere:

*More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee! Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee:  
 this is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee ...*

*Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest: now Thee alone I seek—give what is best:  
 this all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee ...*

*Let sorrow do its work, send grief and pain: sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,  
 when they can sing with me, more love, O Christ, to Thee ...*

*Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise: this be the parting cry my heart shall raise:  
 this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee.*

For Today: 2 Thessalonians 3:5; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:8; 1 John 4:19; Jude 21

Try to look beyond your problems. Resolve that regardless of life’s circumstances, your love for Christ will continue to grow and be strong. Carry this musical prayer with you—

# January 2018

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed                                    | Thu                   | Fri                    | Sat  |
|---|---|--|--|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Children's Sunday School<br>Sunday's @ 9am        | 1<br><b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>  | 2<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir  | 3<br>5:45 Packing For<br>Snack Attack  | 4                     | 5<br>6:00 Youth Group  | 6<br>7:30 Men's Breakfast<br><br>EPIPHANY |
| 7<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Soup & Bread-         | 8   | 9<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir  | 10<br>5:45 Packing For<br>Snack Attack | 11                    | 12<br>6:00 Youth Group | 13<br>7:30 Men's Breakfast<br>Consistory<br>Retreat  |
| 14<br>10:00 Worship<br>Installation<br>Ordination | 15<br> | 16<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir | 17<br>5:45 Packing For<br>Snack Attack | 18<br>7:00 Consistory | 19<br>6:00 Youth Group | 20<br>7:30 Men's Breakfast   |
| 21<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Fellowship           | 22  | 23<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir | 24<br>5:45 Packing For<br>Snack Attack | 25                    | 26<br>6:00 Youth Group | 27<br>7:30 Men's Breakfast   |
| 28<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Fellowship           | 29  | 30<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir | 31<br>5:45 Packing For<br>Snack Attack |                       |                        |  |

# February 2018

| Sun   | Mon | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                    | Sat                        |
|---|-----|--|--|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Children's Sunday School<br>Sundays @ 9am                       |     |  |  | 1   | 2<br>6:00 Youth Group  | 3<br>7:30 Men's Breakfast  |
| 4<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Soup & Bread/Cake                   | 5   | 6<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir  | 7<br>5:45 Packing For<br>Snack Attack                        | 8   | 9<br>6:00 Youth Group  | 10<br>7:30 Men's Breakfast |
| 11<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Fellowship                         | 12  | 13<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir | 14 7:30 ASH Weds Serv<br>5:45 Snack Attack<br>Valentines Day | 15<br>7:00 Consistory<br>Newsletter Articles & Info Due | 16<br>6:00 Youth Group | 17<br>7:30 Men's Breakfast |
| 18 Lent 1<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>Lenten Series | 19  | 20<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir | 21<br>5:45 Packing For<br>Snack Attack                       | 22  | 23<br>6:00 Youth Group | 24<br>7:30 Men's Breakfast |
| 25 Lent 2<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>Lenten Series | 26  | 27<br>7:00 Praise Team<br>7:30 Chancel Choir | 28   |   |                        |                            |

# Around the Congregation

## Church Prayer List

*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* I Thessalonians 5:16-18



Please keep the following people & families in your prayers...

Michelle Jacobsen, Kennedy Family, Mary Cherry, the Shorters, Chuck Kocsis (Cindi Davis’s dad), Isabel Jacobsen, the Military, Shut-in’s, those in Nursing Homes, John Nash’s son John, who is in charge of 3rd Intelligence Battalion of USMC.

### Goodwill Envelopes 2018

January - Habitat for Humanity

### Anniversaries to Celebrate



Jay & Anne Wilkins -

February 4th

Patrick & Debbie Vermilyea -

February 19th

Steve & Jennifer Francisco -

February 21st



### Recent offerings:

#### Envelopes

|        |      |
|--------|------|
| Oct 29 | 2424 |
| Nov 05 | 2399 |
| Nov 12 | 6600 |
| Nov 19 | 2030 |
| Nov 26 | 2743 |
| Nov 3  | 2669 |
| Dec 10 | 1521 |
| Dec 17 | 4417 |
| Dec 24 | 2929 |
| Dec 31 | 2920 |



### January

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| John Nash          | 5th  |
| Herman Stelljes    | 7th  |
| Susan Kennedy      | 12th |
| Samantha Smith     | 15th |
| Janet Gridley      | 19th |
| Nicole Cardish     | 24th |
| Bernice Fowler     | 24th |
| Jenny (Crist) Kohn | 25th |
| Karen Harrington   | 27th |
| Dominic Bonasio    | 29th |
| Richard Lendle     | 29th |
| Dot Reichle        | 29th |
| Carolyn Wesenberg  | 30th |

### February

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Jean Cook          | 1st  |
| Annette Bittner    | 10th |
| Benjamin Carucci   | 10th |
| Marie DeMartini    | 11th |
| Jennifer Francisco | 13th |
| Isabel Jacobsen    | 18th |
| Ken Barringer      | 23rd |
| Genie Shorter      | 25th |
| Kayla Castle       | 27th |
| Noah Carucci       | 28th |
| Jay Wilkins        | 28th |

### Current Inclement Weather Policies

- Sunday’s mornings- call the church office (845-778-5405) after 7:30am. If Worship service is canceled there will be a message left on the voicemail system stating so. If it has not been canceled then you will just hear a standard greeting.
- Monday to Saturday- it will be up to each leader if they want to have their group meet or not.
- Please remember to always use your own discretion when making a decision on if you want to travel to church.



*The First Reformed Church*

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Walden, New York 12586