Serving at the Samaritan Center

We will serve the folks at the new Samaritan Center, with the extraordinarily beautiful stained glass windows, on **Sunday, March 26, 2017**. We will be making the meal AT THE CENTER in their kitchen.

We will need 3-4 volunteers to leave for the Center with us between 10:30 and 11 a.m. to start preparing the meal (You will miss worship!). In addition, we will need 16 more volunteers to be there at 12:30 (leave Marcellus at 12) and 16 cakes in 9” by 13” **DISPOSABLE** pans to be brought to the church Saturday or Sunday a.m. before worship.

We will be passing around the clipboard for early and regular volunteers as well as cake sign ups over the next few weeks. Please consider getting involved.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this church mission.

Nina Wickett

Sandwiches for the Samaritan Center

If you cannot come to the Samaritan Center with us, there’s another chance to help. On March 12, and continuing on the 2nd Sunday of every month, we will be making sandwiches for the Center guests to supplement the meals. Please join us after worship in Shinaman Hall for fellowship and to put together sandwiches for those in need. This will be a continuing ministry, every second Sunday of the month.
Lent begins March 1\textsuperscript{st}. After the season of Epiphany, bathed in the light of Christ, we move down the mountain and begin the journey to Jerusalem, the journey to the cross and the resurrection. In the Ash Wednesday service, we are invited “to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.” \textit{(Book of Common Worship)} This is not just an individual invitation, however, but one extended to the entire community for the 40 days of Lent. May we walk this journey together, and observe a holy Lent.

+++ As Presbyterians, we are a connectional church. Everything we do, we do together. There is no hierarchy but rather circles, overlapping and supporting one other, of people who work together to discern God’s will and serve God in our church, our community, and our world. In our church, we have a Session that makes decisions on ordering the life of our church, and a Board of Deacons that supports a caring ministry. As pastor, I am honored to walk and work alongside all of you as together we walk the journey of faith.

This walk is done together and, in our Presbyterian way, much of the work is done through committees. The pastor serves as Moderator of the Session and as an ex-officio member on committees of the church. We work together best when we keep lines of communication open! To further this for all of us, here are the names of current Session members, Deacons, and those who are chairs and/or session liaisons for our committees:

Session: Brian Abbott, Karl Barner, Mary Heil, Dick Lautenslager, Debbie Quick, Brian Ray, Charlie Smith and Sue Wegman. Sue Bird is currently serving as Clerk of Session.

Deacons: Donna Costa, Carol Goodno, Jane Horyl, Robin Jackson, Taryn Jirousek, Helen Stevens, Deb Swankey, Thommy Thomson, and Nancy Van Derhoof. Deb Swankey is currently serving as Moderator.

Here are key people to contact regarding committees:
Building & Grounds: Alan Beyel and Brian Abbott
Christian Education: Allison Ray and Brian Ray
Fellowship & Outreach: Charlie Smith
Finance & Stewardship: Karl Barner
Mission Interpretation: Sue Wegman
Nominations: Dick Lautenslager
Personnel: Debbie Quick
Worship: Mary Heil
Presbyterian Women: Jackie Davies

\textit{Grace and peace,}
\textit{Pastor Pam}
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1—Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>7 pm Ash Wed Service at St. Francis</td>
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<td>8 pm AA Meeting</td>
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<td>5—Communion</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Sunday in Lent</td>
<td>10 am Worship</td>
<td>10:30 am Sunday School</td>
<td>11:15 am Christian Ed Meeting</td>
<td>Noon - Lenten lunch at MFPC</td>
<td>7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>9 am Zumba</td>
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<tr>
<td>12—2nd Sunday in Lent</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daylight Saving Begins</td>
<td>7 pm Deacons Meeting</td>
<td>10 am—Noon Open Office Hours</td>
<td>Noon - Lenten lunch at St. Francis</td>
<td>7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>9 am Zumba</td>
<td>10 am Seeking Wisdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>19—3rd Sunday in Lent</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Pantry Sunday</td>
<td>7 pm Fellowship &amp; Outreach Meeting</td>
<td>10 am—Noon Open Office Hours</td>
<td>Noon - Lenten lunch at St. John’s</td>
<td>7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>9 am Zumba</td>
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<tr>
<td>26—4th Sunday in Lent</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 am Worship</td>
<td>7 pm Session Meeting</td>
<td>Noon - Lenten lunch at United Methodist</td>
<td>7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am Sunday School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8 pm AA Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 am Covered Dish Supper after Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon Serve Meal at the Samaritan Center</td>
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Communion To Shut-Ins

The Deacons coordinate the offering of the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the homebound on Sundays that we celebrate the Sacrament in worship.

The next opportunity for them to deliver Communion will be on March 6. If you are homebound and would like to receive Communion, please call the Church Office, 673-2201, or Deb Swankey, Moderator of the Deacons, at 673-1403.

CONNECTIONS

Connections is published the first of each month by the Marcellus First Presbyterian Church. Deadline for materials is the 23th of the month preceding the month of publication. Submit materials and address changes to Church Office.

Marcellus First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 147, 1 East Main St.
Marcellus, NY 13108
Phone: 315-673-2201
e-mail: office@marcelluspc.com
website: www.marcelluspresbyterian.com

Worship: 10:00 AM
Church School: 10:30 AM

Views expressed are those of the authors and not official positions of the Session, unless noted.

Food Pantry Hours
Tuesdays
11 am - 12 noon & 6:30 - 7:30 pm

IN OUR PRAYERS...

-Liz Steele
-Gwenn Rice
-Tony Lombardo
-Mike Caster
-Hank Bartholomew and family
-Jan Linderman
-June Gnagy
-Roger Hakes
-Lynn Rice
-Jeff Yap and his family
-Friends and loved ones in need
-Victims of natural disaster
-Our armed forces worldwide and peace

The Deacons

Worship Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office Hours

The Church Office will be open every weekday from 9:30am to Noon.

Pastor Pam has Open Office Hours every week on Tuesday from 10am to Noon.

If you need to get in touch with the church outside of those times, you can always call and leave a voicemail with the office or Pastor Pam’s voicemail. We do check those every day!

If you are sending a letter, please make sure to use our PO Box 147 for the mailing address. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sue Bird 3/2
Jane Reagan 3/3
Daniel Heil 3/5
Brian Winoski 3/6
Jan Linderman 3/11
Benjamin Edmond 3/14
Matt Murphy 3/15
Betty Olley 3/16
Alec Vaughn 3/16
Laura Brown 3/17
Alan Fitch 3/19
Donald Stalker 3/19
Deb Quick 3/22
Karen Cramer 3/24
Martin Wegman 3/25
Scott Brown 3/28
John Thorn 3/31

Happy Anniversary
Erwin & Gwenn Rice 3/20

Birthdays and Anniversaries
Do you want your birthday or Anniversary removed from our list? Or do you know someone whose birthday should be added? Please call Sandy at the office and we will update the list!

Spring forward! Don’t forget to set all of your clocks one hour ahead!

March 2017 Page 4
Presbytery-Wide Book Reading

We are invited to join others in our Presbytery in a study of the book *Flipped*.

In *Flipped*, Doug Pagitt challenges us to turn our thinking about God around. How does the biblical claim that God fills the universe with his presence influence our understanding of God's greatness, his power, and his wisdom for living? Insistently biblical in his writing, Pagitt uses the words of Paul, Jesus, and other biblical figures to help us live more intentionally as we learn to experience God's immediate presence. Pastor Pam has two copies of the book if anyone would like one.

Opportunities to engage with others about the book:
Join any of these groups: (please call ahead for more information)

**Wednesday** evenings March 8 - April 12 at 6:30 pm at
**Isaiah's Table**, 620 West Genesee Street Syracuse, 315-447-7065

**Wednesday** evenings March 8 - April 5 at 7:30 pm at
**Onondaga Hill PC**, 4797 Makyes Road, Syracuse, 315-492-2692
*(Dessert and Discussion- please rsvp if possible)*

**Wednesday** evenings May 3 & 10 at 7:00 pm at
**Pebble Hill PC**, 5299 Jamesville Rd, Dewitt, 315-446-0960

**Thursday** evening May 11 at 7:00 pm at
**Auburn Westminster PC**, 17 William St, Auburn, 315-253-3331

**Saturday**, May 20, *Includes visit by the Author* at the
**Presbytery Meeting**
Throughout Lent, the Marcellus Churches will be holding Ecumenical Lunches on Wednesdays from Noon to 1pm. The theme this year is Mercy/Forgiveness. Everyone is invited to join!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Marcellus First Presbyterian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>St. Francis Xavier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>St. John's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Marcellus United Methodist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>St. Francis Xavier</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In Lent, the Marcellus Churches also hold two Ecumenical Services on two incredibly important days. All are invited!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>St. Francis Xavier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Marcellus First Presbyterian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After Church Covered Dish Dinners
On March 26, (the 4th Sunday of the month,) we will have our second covered dish meal after church. All are invited and we would hope to have a variety of dishes. We will be able to turn on ovens to keep dishes warm if necessary. We have plugs for crock pots if that is what you want to bring, and there are refrigerators for cold dishes. We always like breads and desserts. Coffee, using our new church mugs, and other beverages will be available. **Please bring your own table service,** but for those that forget, or for guests, we will be able to accommodate them with plates and silverware. The important thing is to participate. We look forward to our family breaking bread together, and sharing con-

Marcellus Rotary Club Breakfast

**Sunday, March 12th  8:00 am - 12:30 pm**
**At Marcellus Fire Hall**

Strata, Heart Healthy Oatmeal, Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, and beverages.

Purchase tickets at the Door
or
from any Rotary Member. Call (315) 673-2476 for information and tickets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tickets:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adults $7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family (4) $22.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 12 years old $4.00</td>
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<td>Under 6 years old FREE</td>
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Digging Down into the Budget: Benevolences

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can that faith save you? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2: 14-17

A quick glance at our budget spreadsheet may leave a false impression of how much we give to others. Did we really give only $5000 to “benevolences” in 2016?

To see what we donate, one has to look beyond a single budget line item and even beyond the budget itself.

If you take into consideration the “per capita” dollars from MFPC to Presbytery, Synod, and the national PCUSA which support charitable giving, our donation to More Light Network of churches, and special mission offerings such as the Communion Offering, Peacemaking, One Great Hour of Sharing, Blankets +, and Christmas Joy, the total increases - markedly!

The Mission Interpretation Committee works diligently to discuss the giving of resources beyond our church. Contributions to the Theological Fund which supports our Presbyterian seminaries to ensure leadership for tomorrow, as well as wide variety of other organizations were supported in the past year, ranging from Feed My Starving Children to the Alzheimer’s Association. Funding for these gifts make up the $5,000 listed on the budget line. This past year Session allocated $1000 from the Great Commission Fund be set aside for mission. The Committee gave all of that money to Matthew 25.

Our congregation gives generously to many organizations in other ways that aren’t reflected in the spreadsheet. We support our Food Pantry with regular gifts as well as by giving turkeys at Thanksgiving and baking for the Cake Walk in June. We support the Samaritan Center by organizing and serving meals and donating cakes. We support the CROP Walk, the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, and the Susan Komen Race for the Cure. We provide gifts for the “Christmas Angels”, and supplies for OnPoint for College. Our Lenten offering supported Vera House, our Love Month offering collected funds for clothing for local migrant farm workers, and we support refugee resettlement by collecting items for the Center for New Americans. We donate to the “Ugly Quilt” group, and our Youth Group raised funds in the Habitat for Humanity Bowl-a-thon. We also supported the individual projects of our youth by purchasing Girl Scout Cookies, Boy Scout popcorn, and candy bars to benefit Clear Path for Veterans.

The total dollar value of all these gifts was in the range of $30,000 last year. The personal investment of time and talent goes far beyond that.

God has blessed us richly with the time, talents, and resources to give to others. Our response is in gratitude to what God has given to us.

March 2017 Page 7
The purpose of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering has remained the same since its inception in 1950: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. One Great Hour of Sharing funds provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support towards the self-development of poor and oppressed communities. The offering is divided into 3 parts:

- **32% Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**
  Working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters.

- **36% Presbyterian Hunger Program**
  Supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so that all may be fed.

- **32% Self-Development of People**
  Providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from.

The theme for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing offering comes from Isaiah 58: “You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach”. Over the next few weeks you will hear stories through Minute for Mission and bulletin inserts of how OGHS funds have made a difference in people's lives. From providing clean water to people in Detroit, MI to promoting sustainable agriculture in Malawi your generous gifts to OGHS make sure this important work continues.

“The OGHS ministries are driven, not so much by who the recipients are, but by who we are—faithful and generous followers of Christ Jesus. As such, our intention is to follow the lead of Jesus who looks upon everyone as a valued child of God, worthy of God's good gift of life abundant.”

--Rev. Joseph Johnson-Evergreen Presbyterian Church
2017 Lenten Offering
As in years past, the Mission Interpretation Committee will offer a second mile giving opportunity to the congregation during Lent in addition to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This year we are asking you to bring in items to be donated to the Center for New Americans, a refugee resettlement program in Syracuse. Even though the future of the refugee program is unknown, the Center provides help to newcomers for up to 5 years after their arrival. The items that we will be collecting can always be used. We will be collecting items for personal care and cleaning supplies. We will have a table in the front of the sanctuary where you can leave your donations and you can bring whatever you want whenever you want. In other words, we are not asking you to bring certain items on certain days.

### Personal Care Items
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant (both men's & women's)
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Feminine hygiene pads
- Rolls of toilet paper

### Cleaning Supplies
- mop and bucket
- broom and dustpan
- pack of sponges
- bottle of all-purpose cleaner spray
- toilet brush
- dish soap
- laundry detergent
- light bulbs
- paper towels
- tissues

This is an opportunity to directly help people who are in a strange, new country and need to know that we are glad they are here. Jesus said, “when you do this to the least of them, you do it to me.” Thanks for your continuing generosity and compassionate.

### Marion Medical Mission
How is the Mission Pledge money spent? One place we sent money in 2016 was to Marion Medical Mission. For just $400 from the Mission Pledge, we were able to fund a new shallow well. It was installed on October 19, 2016 in the village of Chiphusu Malawi and will serve 85 people. The shallow well program not only installs wells, it also educates the local people on how to manage and maintain the protected water source so that the supply of water continues in future years. Clean drinking water will eliminate the water-borne diseases that were prevalent in the area and thus save the lives of many children.
Love Month —“Clear Path for Veterans”
Project coordinated by Robert Beyel
We are in the last weeks of the Love Month Project benefiting Clear Path for Veterans. If you have not yet brought in your dog-related items to be delivered to this wonderful program, you still have a week or so to bring them to church. Rob Beyel has taken the lead in organizing this effort and will be coordinating a time for our youth group to assist with delivery of the donations. We look forward to meeting representatives from the program and learning more about what they do and the people they serve.

Out and About with the MFPC Youth
On February 4th we took a crew of kids to see Cirque de Symphonique at Crouse Hinds Theater in Syracuse. It was a sold out show and a wonderful night of outstanding music and incredible acrobatics. What an entertaining evening, and a great way to help our church youth embrace the cultural activities that we are so blessed to have available to us in our area! I was so impressed by how mature and engaged all of our attendees were, and Mr. Ray and I were once again reminded what a pleasure it is to plan and participate in these activities with the young people from MFPC! We are looking forward to bringing our youth to the last home game for the Silver Knights professional soccer team in downtown Syracuse on February 24th.

Habitat for Humanity Bowl-a-Thon
We had 13 kids and parents bowling for a great cause on February 12th, in support of Habitat for Humanity of Syracuse. We were able to raise and contribute around $400 to the grand total of over $5000 that the Habitat organization received that day. We had a blast and some lighthearted competition made the afternoon especially humorous. Many thanks to all who sponsored bowlers and came to put their bowling skills to good use!
Youth Calendar

Lessons in February focused on how we determine value—our own and others’—and we compared that to our worth in God’s eyes. On Super Bowl Sunday we played some table football before talking about sports in the Bible and the lessons we can learn from them. Jerrod’s table football skills were so on point that Mr. Ray owes him a box of Munchkin donuts for having landed his paper football in Rob’s shirt pocket….TWICE.

March

5  Confirmation/Lesson/Love Month work/wrap up
12  Lesson
19  Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser and Lesson
26  Lesson
Serving at Samaritan Center

Pancake Fundraiser

More details will be forthcoming, but please plan to skip your breakfast at home and join us for a delicious feast of pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice, milk, coffee and fruit. We would like to ask a $5 donation for folks ages 10 and up. Youngsters under 10 eat free. All funds will be put right back into the youth fund for future activities and service/mission projects. Thanks so much for your support! The youth will be hosting their second annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, March 19th.

April Service Project—Every Day is Earth Day

As we head into April, you will be hearing about a youth service activity that will be taking place at Baltimore Woods. I had a lovely meeting with Whitney Lash-Marshall, the new Executive Director at Baltimore Woods, to discuss ways in which our youth group could be of help to this very important local organization. We are looking at a service day in late April or early May. We expect it will involve service projects on their property, potentially including landscaping, removal of invasive plant species, or maintenance of trails and landmarks. We will have a picnic lunch, and perhaps a guided nature walk with one of their staff. More details will be forthcoming as it becomes available.
Presbyterian Women

P.W. will not meet in March so they will be available to enjoy the Lenten Lunch.

MEMORIAL EASTER LILIES

In Memory of or to Honor someone special at Easter time.

Cost is $10.00

Deadline to order is Friday, April 14.

Given by_______________________________________________________________

In Memory of___________________________________________________________

In Honor of_____________________________________________________________

Deacon pick-up_________ You pick-up_________

Please make check payable to Marcellus First Presbyterian and return to the church office with this completed form.

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