

Board Walk Plus ~ March 2026

Hello Friends!

It's almost spring!

As I create this newsletter, I am in Florida (where it is a *tad* warmer than in New York, but not much!). I am a bit sad that I am missing out on so many wonderful happenings in our church. New faces, babies, baptisms, members, food, fellowship and fun.



I enjoy hearing from you with notes and photos to be included in the Board Walk Plus. Please feel free to send me ideas, suggestions and comments about the newsletter. I want it to be yours – something that informs and enlightens. Please text me: 607-661-2154 or send me an I'll see you in May – just in time for Mother's Day! In the meantime, enjoy each day and spread kindness!

Faithfully yours,

Cindy Fitzwater



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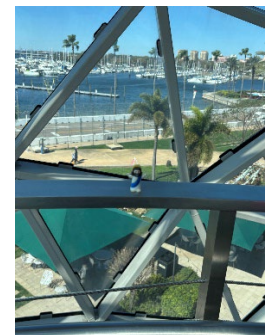
Upcoming Events:

See March calendar on page 8

W.H.J.B.?

Wondering **Where Has Jesus Been?** Well, he's been in Florida with me – basking in the Florida sun – despite the cool temps. And – he visited the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg last week with the girls from UPC! (See page 7)

I hope he's been with you, too. Send pics and I'll include them next month!



The Pastor's Pathway...

Once again, we enter the Lenten season, a nice time to take a step back and reflect. I have something neat to share. Past members, the Peterson's are doing the same Lenten Study that we are, in their Episcopal Church in Connecticut. I hope to hear more feedback from them on how their study goes. Both churches are reading a daily devotional, Wright, N.T. *From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone*. Louisville, KY, Westminster John Knox Press, 2025. How wonderful for members from our past to stay connected with us and do the same study...an extension of our ministry. Bev Packard and I are leading the class. We still have more room if you wish to join us.



There is some excitement in the church with more recent baptisms and welcoming of new members. I am overjoyed at this good news. I wish to thank the congregation for your flexibility as we navigate larger numbers at times in the sanctuary and people coming and going with more children who might need breaks during the



service. It is joyful movement and noise. Some of these changes can add a little distraction at times, but it is well worth it for the new life in the church. We appreciate your support for our youngsters and their families. We have a few pictures to share. (see also page 6)



Going forward, there is a set time for the Grief Support Group. We meet on the first Thursday of the month starting March 5th at 4:30 pm. All are welcome and light refreshments will be provided. The return of game night was a lot of fun. There are more to come. The next Game Night will be March 28th at 7pm.

Our ministry is extending to Elderwood. I will be offering services on fourth Sunday afternoons going forward. Our first service there on February 22nd was a joyous occasion for the residents. One of our own members attended and gave very positive feedback and a thank you. If someone wants to come along with me from church, please see me. They also have a piano to play if anyone would like to offer some nice music for the service.

We are restarting the Christian Education Committee. You may see me if you are interested in participating and not already on the committee. On Sunday, April 19th, we welcome special guest Melissa Massie of Vincent House. She will speak at the fellowship hour with a question-and-answer session about Vincent House's services and needs. She will also have a table for more private conversation.

Very truly yours in Christ,
Rev. Ted Warner

February Board Walk

Session:

Session had its February stated meeting and several special meetings. We welcomed new members at the special meetings and approved baptisms. Session approved:

- promoting One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent
- this year's Bazaar date of 7 November
- discussed how to help Megan Haley with Sunday School (especially how to have a second adult present, if necessary (Session is looking into this requirement)),
- agreed to seek other people for the Christian Education Committee
- approved having someone provide information about Vincent House in Wayland (during fellowship hour on Sunday, 19 April).

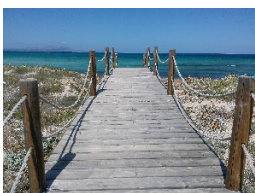
In work on the Manual of Operations, Session approved:

- the budget-timeline section
- agreed that the Personnel Committee should have responsibility for administration of the annual sexual harassment prevention training that paid staff and some volunteers are required to take (NYS law)
- agreed to add a section on the duties and responsibilities of the Clerk of Session, and
- a section listing all church committees.

Updating of the Manual is nearly complete.

We were informed that the process for applying for Presbytery Mission Grants is behind schedule. We look forward to receiving information about when to apply for grants.

Submitted by Clerk of Session Jim Varner



on the boardwalk...

Trustees:

The Trustees are working on the following items:

- We are looking for ideas as to where should we put in a handicap section within the church sanctuary? We would like to make the necessary change(s) this spring/early summer. Email jeremyholbrook@yahoo.com with your ideas and suggestions and he will bring them to the Trustees.
- We are working with members of the Session to begin updating/refreshing the Dining Room.
- We are planning to begin working on remodeling the church bathrooms with new sinks, counters, and mirrors soon.

Submitted by Jeremy Holbrook
Chair, Board of Trustees



\$2446 for Agape!

Deacons:

The Deacons sent cards to our shut-ins for Valentine's Day. There were several visits made, as well as cookies and meals delivered.

The Agape appeal was completed on February 22, 2026, exceeding our goal of \$2,026.00 with total donations of \$2446.00! Donations can still be made throughout the year to this fund, which is used for those in need locally. Many thanks to those who have given to this fund. Recently some of this fund was used to help a fellow parishioner who incurred some unexpected financial burdens.

Donations were sent to the local Food Bank, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities for their three-month routine support.

Communion set up and serving are set for the months of March and April.

Submitted by Deb Mammosser, Deacon



Committee Corner for February

Christian Education:

As Pastor Ted noted in his column, this committee is being started again, and we are seeking people to join and serve. This is a very important time in our church as so many more youth are joining our Sunday School program. Please reach out to Pastor Ted to express your interest and share ideas.

Music & Worship Committee:

First, we want to thank Jon for his service to UPC and send our prayers for strength and healing as he takes a well-deserved leave to focus on his health.

The season of Lent is upon us and with it many opportunities to observe these days of reflection. Lent and Easter are often a time when we remember those who have meant so much to us in our lives and in our faith journey. This year we are offering two ways to memorialize or honor those special people. Special candles and ribbons will be displayed in the sanctuary as a tribute to those special loved ones. Simply contact the church office by Palm Sunday (March 29) with the names of those you wish to honor/memorialize, and a candle will be placed in the sanctuary in their name.

Easter Sunday will also mark the dedication of the Glory to God hymnals that have been purchased. Anyone still wishing to do so may call the church office to make arrangements.

Music & Worship continued...

Holy Week Services:

- March 29th – Palm Sunday
- April 2nd - Maundy Thursday Seder dinner in the Dining Room at 6:00
- April 3rd - Good Friday Service in the chapel at 4:30 PM*
- April 5th - Easter Sunday service of celebration

*Anyone interested in serving as a reader for the Good Friday Service, please contact Pastor Ted.

Speaking of volunteers, there are still plenty of opportunities available for anyone wishing to give a Children's Message. Materials and resources can be yours for the asking! Contact Cindy Fitzwater if you are interested.

Regarding the closing music for Worship. There seems to be some uncertainty about exiting the sanctuary at the end of our worship service. Do we stay seated? Are we free to leave during the music? Are we allowed to talk? Hopefully this will lessen any confusion. Beginning March 1, everyone should feel free to greet friends and neighbors or leave the sanctuary as the "recessional" music is being played to take the message of Christ into the world.

Submitted by: Bev Packard, M & W Committee

UPW - United Presbyterian Women

The UPW – United Presbyterian Women group is seeking more women to join this group. Every new voice and helping hand makes a difference. Greater involvement allows us to strengthen our fellowship with one another. We invite all women of faith to consider joining us and helping this ministry grow and thrive. Please reach out to Cindy Banker, Jo Barnard or Marcia Reynolds if you are interested.

Our Spring 2026
Rummage Sale is Coming Soon!

Parish Life Committee:

The Parish Life Committee hosted a "Game Night" on Saturday February 22nd. Fifteen family members attended. It was a good time for all! There will be another Game Night on Saturday March 28th. Please come and enjoy a relaxing and fun evening.



Game Night – games and snacks!



Game Night!

*February Office News:*

Our building calendar is wonderfully full. It is a blessing to see our spaces being used so actively. We host many groups and organizations, including: Orpheus, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Grief Support Group, Bridge, Sunday Meals, Sunday Meals baking group, Wednesday Lunch with Friends (all are welcome including community), Real Tree Counseling service, Bethesda Foundation Board meetings. The list of events changes throughout the year with occasions like St. Ann's Academy graduations and pageants and YMCA concerts, to list a few.

The first of March we were pleased to support Catholic Charities by providing space for a fundraiser that is vital to their mission. Their work supports members of our community who struggle with hunger and housing insecurities, and we are grateful to partner with a ministry that serves our neighbors in such a meaningful way.

On the administrative side, the Power Church contribution program has now been rebuilt to the best of my ability. Contribution statements have been sent out as usual. If you did not receive your statement, please contact the church office. If you notice any corrections that need to be made, kindly email me and I will make the necessary adjustments promptly. The trustees have acknowledged the recent software issues and have approved the purchase of an online version to replace our current desktop software. This transition will allow our data to be securely stored in the cloud, providing better protection should technical issues arise again. Although the backups had been completed, those files unfortunately became corrupt and unusable.

Thank you to everyone for your patience understanding and encouragement while I worked through the rebuilding of the entire 2025 contribution year. Your kindness and support truly meant a great deal.

You will also notice new laminated inserts available on Communion Sundays. These inserts are designed to help newcomers and visitors follow along with the Communion readings more easily, without needing to search through the hymnal.

Thank you for your continued support of the church office and the ministry we share together.

With grace and love,

Jennifer

Baptisms & New Members:

Sunday February 15th, 2026 was another special day for our church family, and for our pastor, Rev. Ted Warner. We celebrated the baptism of Bailey Wycoff, as well as the reception of Bailey and her fiancé, Caleb Jaconski, as new members of our congregation. And, on Sunday February 22nd, Margaret and Elizabeth Nichols, of two of Anne and Zach Nichols' daughters, were baptized. (See additional photos on page 2.)



Nichols Family



*He has made everything beautiful
in its time. Ecclesiastes 3:11*

Children's Message on 2/22:

When was the last time we saw fifteen (15!) children and youth in church and participating in the Children's Message? Here's proof it does happen! (Photo credit to Carol Hover) And thank you to Peg Knopf-Willsey for her inspiring message. [Note: my nieces and grandson weren't there that day or there would have been 18!]



A new baby!

On February 18th, the Stonerock family welcomed a baby girl. Makenzie Alexandra Stonerock weighed 6 lbs 11 oz and joins a big brother and sister at home. Parents Sam and Ali and siblings are thrilled. Grandma and Grandpa, Martha and Roger, are in love with this new addition. Congratulations to all!



Dad Sam with baby Makenzie



Belated February Birthdays:

3 – Katharine Sanford
 4 – Pam Griffin
 6 – Nancy Baker
 8 – Jeanne McAnany
 13 - Larry Casey
 14 – Jo Barnard
 20 – Marcia Reynolds
 27 – Linda Varner
 27 – Terry Sanford
 28 – Jon Richeson

Happy “Belated” Anniversary:

2/19 - Bill and Sue Mombert

A Blast from the Past:



L to R: Patty Dusinberre Crowley, Jeanne LaBarron McAnany, Cindy Berry Fitzwater, and Lisa Stephens Sanford.

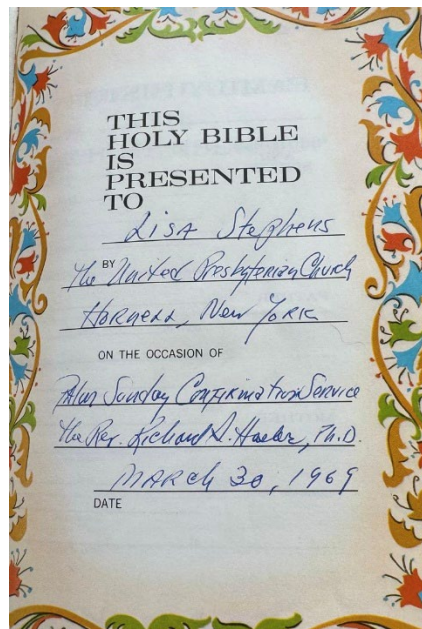
The four of us were recently vacationing together and realized we were all part of the March 30, 1969 Confirmation Class at United Presbyterian Church. Dr. Richard Hasler confirmed us, along with about 14 of our junior high classmates. The church presented us with bibles – inscribed by Dr. Hasler. (see photo) We all went on a Columbus Caravan together in 1971, to teach vacation bible school to inner city kids. We are truly blessed to still be friends after all these years!

March Birthdays:

3 – Ken Kellogg
 3 – Jim Van Brunt
 5 – Gayle Gebhard
 5 – William Ormsby, Jr.
 7 – Madelyn Kellogg
 8 – Donald Cook
 10 – Michael Brownson
 14 – Lisa Sanford
 14 – Ted Adornato
 15 – William Jaconski
 15 – Eliot Roberts
 17 – Roger Utz
 18 – Earl Packard
 20 – Ellen Mason
 22 – Jeanette Reed
 23 – David Kilgore
 26 – Rachael Holbrook
 31 – Ben Haley

March Anniversaries:

2 – Cindy & Tom Fitzwater
 16 – Cindy & Bill Banker



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Soup luncheon for Catholic Charities 11:30	2	3 Deacons 7 PM	4 11 AM: Lenten Study - lounge Noon: Lunch with Friends Chapel 9-2:30	5 4:30: Grief Support Group - lounge	6	7
8 Sunday Meals 11:30	9	10 Trustees 7 PM	11 11 AM: Lenten Study - lounge Noon: Lunch with Friends Chapel 9-2:30	12	13	14
15 Fellowship Hour by Jenny 11:30	16	17 Session 7 PM	18 11 AM: Lenten Study - lounge Noon: Lunch with Friends Chapel 9-2:30	19	20	21
22	23	24 Music & Worship 1:30	25 11 AM: Lenten Study - lounge Noon: Lunch with Friends Chapel 9-2:30	26	27	28 Game Night 7 PM Dining Room
29 Palm Sunday Service 10:30	30	31	April 1 11 AM: Last Lenten Study Noon: Lunch with Friends Chapel 9-2:30	April 2 Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner 6 PM Dining Room	April 3 Good Friday Service 4:30 Chapel	April 4

Please let me know if you have any upcoming events or meetings you would like included on the April calendar! Cindy

Church Contacts:

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