

# *The* **Churchmouse**

## **March 2024**



### **Lent 2024**

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very ordinary person trying to figure it all out—just like us.

Throughout the season of Lent, we will seek to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We will seek to affirm that wandering is exploration, **not necessarily distance from God**. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him *agapē* love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

*Pastor Quincie*

**We warmly invite you to engage with our church community this season by taking part in the following events:**

### **Palm Sunday**

- Join us on 03.24.24 at 10:00 am as we commemorate Palm Sunday together.

### **Maundy Thursday Service**

- Date: 03.28.24
- Time: 7:00 pm
- This is a service you won't want to miss! Experience a creative journey through "the way of sorrows" to the cross, through the eyes of Jesus' close disciple, Peter. This service, reminiscent of the Stations of the Cross, invites us to ponder Peter's role in the crucifixion narrative, encouraging us to reflect on our own discipleship. Designed for in-person worship (with virtual options), each station features scripture readings, special reflections, and congregational participation.

### **Good Friday Service**

- Date: 03.29.24
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Join us for a solemn service including communion and a ritual to lay our burdens on the cross. Featuring a combined choir with members from New Scotland and FUMCV, this in-person service will be held at New Scotland Presbyterian Church.

### **Easter Sunrise Service**

- Date: 03.31.24
- Time: 6:00 am (Meeting at New Scotland Parking Lot)
- Start Easter morning with an ecumenical sunrise service, celebrating the dawn of a new day with praise and thanksgiving. We'll depart from the New Scotland Parking Lot at 6:00 am to drive together to Thacher Park. You can also join us directly at Thacher Park Overlook at 6:15 am for the worship service.

Breakfast will be served afterward at 7:00 am at the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville.

### **Easter Sunday Service**

- Date: 03.31.24
- Time: 10:00 am
- Join us for Easter Sunday worship at 10:00 am as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

*Pastor Quincie*

### Breast Surgery

This “Anti-Ouch-Pouch” soft pillow is designed to be worn snugly against the underarm area to cushion the area after breast surgery. The wedge shape gently holds the arm away from the body when the user is standing. The strap holds the pillow in place without having to use sore arm muscles to “clutch” it. The strap is adjustable and the fiberfill may be adjusted via the overlapped opening. Any questions contact Pat Hammond.



### Meals for Seniors

Meals for seniors are offered every Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center and on Thursday, 11:30-12:30, at the St. Matthews Social Center. Anyone age 60 years and above who lives in Albany County is welcome. The lunch is free, however a \$3.00 donation is suggested.

Registration is required, please contact Deborah Engel, 518-439-9038.

### **Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless Dinner**

The Missioncom. continues to provide a dinner once a month for I.P.H. The dinner will be provided on the 2nd Friday of each month. If you would like to help or contribute, please contact Ferne Horn 518-439-2488.

### Stamps For The Wounded

SFTW (stamps for the wounded). Started in 1942, this Hobby Therapy Is so important—continuing to lift our Vets spirits, just knowing someone Cares.

We are helping many children and others to learn English, and helping to restore those injured during Military service with their cognitive abilities.

Thank you to all who have become a Part of this important need—hoping for more to join us.

*Thank you, Pat Klose-Hammond, proud mother of Karie Jean.*

### Altar Flowers for the Glory of God

If you would like to donate Altar flowers for a Sunday Worship Service, there is a sign-up sheet in the hallway. Please contact me with any questions...Cheryl Hammer, home 518-765-9377, cell 518-441-9880.

**Please send your Easter flower orders in no later than March 24, 2024. If you would like an order form, please contact Cheryl Hammer or the Church office.**  
*Thank you!*



## Weekly Lenten Study

Joint Weekly Hybrid Lenten Study – the focus is the weekly devotion in the “A Wandering Heart” devotional.

We are meeting every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., starting Tuesday, February 13 – Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

We will be meeting in person in the Klohck Room at the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, and there will be a Zoom link for those who would like to join us virtually.





## Preschool update from Jen Samson!

Happy March! In March comes Spring and we are all excited for some nice warm weather! The preschoolers are learning about the seasons and keeping a close eye out for signs of spring... hopefully we see some soon! In the meantime, the kids are getting rid of some “cabin fever” with our theme week! We had Character Day, Disney Day, Wacky Wednesday, a teddy bear picnic, and dress like your parents/grandparents day! Spread the word... We will start taking registration for the 2024-2025 school year soon! We will hold an open house in early April- stay tuned for details! In the meantime- For any questions, or more information about the preschool, email us: [Voorheesvilleprek@gmail.com](mailto:Voorheesvilleprek@gmail.com)





*Our Church Family*



WISHING A VERY HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY TO ALL BORN IN  
MARCH!



Shalom Church friends!

The Early Christian Church was SUPER excited to share the LOVE & RESURRECTION JOY of JESUS with each other and their neighbors as is evidenced by this passage from the Book of Acts 4:32-35 (Message Bible)

***"The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, 'That's mine; you can't have it.' They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them. And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it. The apostles then distributed it according to each person's need."***

So, while myself and probably most reading are probably not ready to "sell our house" for Jesus (although some have, just google it), I am proposing a modest way we can more intentionally help each other and our neighbors (as was received by church leadership last Tuesday).

### **A FUMCV Church Community Resource Guide**

It would simply be a listing of our "gifts and graces" that we are willing to share with each other and our neighbors. It would be an excellent tool to give to newcomers in the church and to those who live by us or work with us. A true witness that we are willing to "wade into the deep water" and help in the name of Jesus! For instance, I would list my gifts and graces as 1-" Retired CPA willing to help with income tax or financial/accounting issues", 2- Certified Recovery Peer Advocate willing to help any who have questions/concerns about addictions and 3- Retired Pastor

Dee (my spouse/partner) is an elementary librarian/educator willing to help with short term tutoring, etc. and also has a "cricket" printer that she loves to create items on.

*(continued on next page)*

### A FUMCV Church Community Resource Guide (cont'd)

The Methodist Men's group is willing to help with some home repairs, etc.

Kari Jean's Closet is available to help with clothing needs.

Others may have gifts with cooking, exercise, healing touch, offering rides, whatever !

Of course, it is strictly voluntary and yes, it may, at times, create sticky situations, but that's what "getting out of the boat and going into the deep water" (Pastor Quincie's sermon of 2/18) is all about!

Look for more details coming in late March or April, feel free to share your excitement, joy, or concerns with me.

Shalom, Al Johnson, Retired Methodist Pastor (usually sitting in front row with Dee on Sundays)

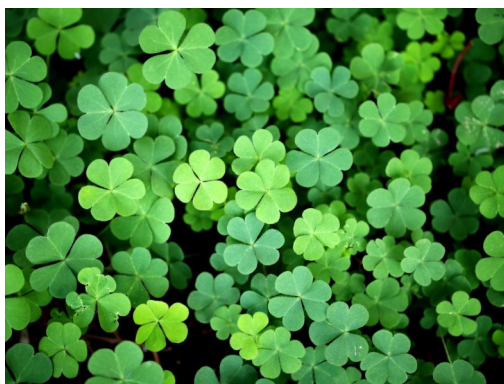
[aljohnson0527@gmail.com](mailto:aljohnson0527@gmail.com)

518-572-0835 (p.s.- not a night owl)

---

**The New Scotland Community Food Pantry** is grateful for any donations, all are appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of our latest needs. This month we are in need of the following: noodle pouches, canned tuna and chicken, canned tomatoes, cereal, sugar, Jello, and dish detergent. Thank you for your help.

*Judy Douglas*





*Prayers are requested for . . .*

*Susan and Tim Albright  
Nancy Barth  
Eileen Cameron  
Rosemary Charlton  
Carmella Childs  
Barbara Dudek  
Warren Farrington  
Mary Beth Felice  
Carol Flewelling  
Ken George and Family  
Barbara Holscher  
Mark Johnson  
Linda Goodale Manser  
Elijah Markoditz  
Kylar McGrath*

*We pray for all of God's children who are  
in need of peace, comfort, and love*

*In Military Service  
Jacob Adams*

*\*\*If you know of someone that you would  
like added or who may be removed from our  
Prayer List, or In Military Service list,  
please contact Dianne Luci, 518-765-4536  
or the Church office. Thank you\*\**



*I'm a little Prayer Quilt  
To hold in your hand.  
To help when trouble arises,  
Those things you do not plan.  
Hold me tight in your fist  
If it helps calm your fears.  
And don't be afraid to use me  
to wipe away your tears.*

These Prayer Quilts bring comfort and love to  
those in a time of need,  
this shows the continued need for prayers.

*Prayer Ministry  
Submitted by Pat Klose-Hammond*

*Angel's Corner*

Lord, make me an instrument of  
your peace: where there is hatred,  
let me sow love; where there is in-  
jury, pardon; where there is doubt,  
faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

*Saint Francis of Assisi*

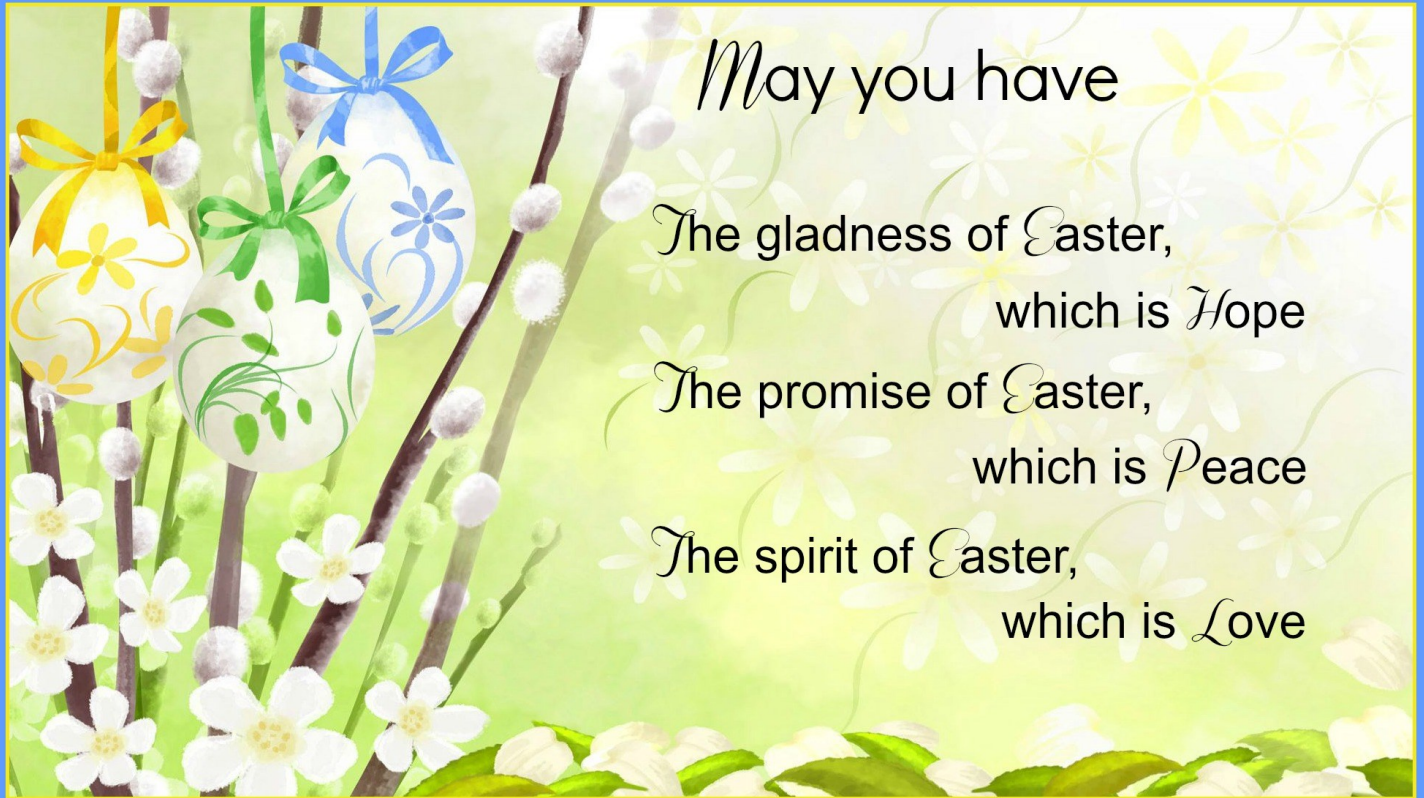
2nd Sat 10:00 am AA  
 3rd Sun 8:00 am Bible Study  
           **10:00 am Worship**  
           **12pm-4pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:00 pm AA  
 5th Tue 6:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study  
           7:00 pm Girl Scouts  
 6th Wed **12-7 pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:30 pm Youth Group  
           7:30 pm AA  
           7:30 pm Al-Anon  
 7th Thur **12pm-4 pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
 9th Sat 10:00 am AA  
 10th Sun 8:00 am Bible Study  
           **10:00 am Worship**  
           **11:00 am Worship Meeting**  
           **12pm-4 pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           12:30-3:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting  
           6:00 pm AA  
 12th Tue 6:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study  
 13th Wed **12-7 pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:30 pm Youth Group  
           7:30 pm AA  
           7:30 pm Al-Anon  
 14th Thur **12pm-4pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:30 pm Girl Scouts  
 16th Sat 10:00 am AA  
 17th Sun 8:00 am Bible Study  
           **10:00 am Worship**  
           **12pm-4pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:00 pm AA  
 19th Tue 6:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study  
           **7:00 pm Leadership Meeting**  
           7:00 pm Girl Scouts  
 20th Wed **12pm-7 pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:30 pm Youth Group  
           7:30 pm AA  
           7:30 pm Al-Anon

For updates to the Church Calendar, please  
 contact the Church office, [office@fumcv.org](mailto:office@fumcv.org),  
 or call 518-765-2895. Thank you!



21st Thur **12pm-4pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
 23rd Sat 10:00 am AA  
 24th Sun **PALM SUNDAY**  
           8:00 am Bible Study  
           **10:00 am Worship**  
           **12pm-4pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           12:30-3:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting  
           6:00 pm AA  
 26th Tue 6:00 pm Lenten Devotional Study  
 27th Wed **12-7 pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:30 pm Youth Group  
           7:30 pm AA  
           7:30 pm Al-Anon  
 28th Thurs **MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
           **12pm-4pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:00 pm Girl Scouts  
 29th Fri **GOOD FRIDAY**  
 30th Sat 10:00 am AA  
 31st Sun **EASTER SUNDAY**  
           8:00 am Bible Study  
           **10:00 am Worship**  
           **12pm-4pm Karie Jean's Closet OPEN**  
           6:00 pm AA





### **The Church Directory**

If you have changed your address, telephone number or email, or if you have not been in the directory in the past, please notify the Church office. **You are important to us, and we want to be sure to include you!**

**First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville**  
**68 Maple Avenue, Voorheesville, NY 12186**  
**[www.fumcv.org](http://www.fumcv.org)**

***Quincie Yamin, Lead Pastor***  
**[pastor@fumcv.org](mailto:pastor@fumcv.org)**  
**318-332-5727**

***Roberta Garris***  
***Administrative Assistant***  
**[office@fumcv.org](mailto:office@fumcv.org)**  
**Office phone: 518-765-2895**

**The church office is staffed**  
**Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm.**