

First Congregational Church of Greene, New York  
United Church of Christ - Founded 1811

# The Congregation

The Congregation is published monthly, except July and August, which are combined.

Volume LVI      March 2010      Number 46

**Spirituality:** The center of our daily life is to continuously improve our relationship with Christ and all God's Creation.

**Compassion:** Actions that welcome and accept all people and help them experience the good feeling of God's unconditional love.



**Integrity:** With honesty and respect we support everyone's freedom to develop their Relationship with God.

**Belonging:** In sharing and celebrating life, we support our commitment to all others to nurture a family relationship of belonging.



*Open Door Kitchen, Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.*

*Daylight Savings Time Begins March 14<sup>th</sup>...set your clocks ahead one hour*

*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering March 14<sup>th</sup>*

*Confirmation Class, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23 at 6:00 p.m.*

*April Newsletter Deadline, Mon., 3/15/10*

*Men's Fellowship Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.*



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**OFFICE TELEPHONE: 607-656-4923    E-mail address: [UCCGREENE@juno.com](mailto:UCCGREENE@juno.com)    Pastor's Study: 607-656-7449**

Website Address: <http://www.uccgreene.org>

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. - **Worship Every Sunday at 9:55 a.m.**

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC  
28 N. CHENANGO STREET  
GREENE, NY 13778**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 204  
GREENE, NY 13778**

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Curtis Whitman  
Moderator: Art DeJager  
Board of Deacons: Donna Possemato  
Board of Property: Phil Gagnon  
Board of Christian Ed.: Laurel Acunto  
Secretary/ Newsletter Coordinator: Linda Teter  
Organist/Choir Director Claudia Kachmarik  
Custodian: Wayne Hartley  
Newsletter Volunteer: Jean Compeau

# March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <i>Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m.</i>	<b>2</b> <i>UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m.</i>  <i>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</i>	<b>3</b> <i>WIC 8:30-4:30</i>  <i>Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m.</i>  <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Lenten Service @ Baptist Church with Assembly of God 12:05 p.m.</i>  <i>Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m.</i>	<b>5</b> <i>World Day of Prayer at Immaculate Conception Church 11:00 a.m.</i>	<b>6</b> <i>I Can't Wait for Summer Party 5:00 p.m.</i>
<b>7</b> <i>Sunday School 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>Families in Need Collection</i> <i>Youth Group 5:00 p.m.</i> <i>Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m.</i>  <i>Deacons 6:00 PM</i>  <i>WIC Class 6:00 p.m.</i>	<b>9</b> <i>UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m.</i>  <i>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</i>  <i>Property Board 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m.</i>  <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Lenten Service @ First Congregational Church 12:05 p.m.</i>  <i>Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m.</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Open Door Kitchen 5:30 p.m.</i> <i>St. Patrick's Dinner</i>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins. Set clocks ahead one hour</i> <i>Sunday School 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i> <i>OGHS Offering</i> <i>Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>WIC Class 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Executive Council 7:00 p.m.</i>  <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	<b>16</b> <i>UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m.</i>  <i>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</i>	<b>17</b> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>  <i>Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m.</i>  <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Lenten Service @ Central Baptist Church 12:05 p.m.</i>  <i>Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m.</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Annual Boy Scout Troop 162 Spaghetti Dinner 4:00-8:00 p.m.</i>
<b>21</b> <i>Sunday School 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i>  <i>Youth Group 5:00 p.m.</i> <i>Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m.</i>  <i>WIC Class 6:00 p.m.</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Church World Service prep day 9:30 a.m.</i> <i>UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m.</i> <i>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Men's Fellowship 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m.</i>  <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Lenten Service @ United Methodist Church 12:05 p.m.</i>  <i>Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m.</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Boy Scout Troop 162 Pack Meeting 6:30 p.m.</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Sunday School 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Worship 9:55 a.m.</i> <i>Blood Pressure Screening</i> <i>Food Pantry Collection</i> <i>Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m.</i>  <i>WIC Class 6:00 p.m.</i>	<b>30</b> <i>UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m.</i>	<b>31</b> <i>Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m.</i>  <i>Choir 7:00 p.m.</i>			

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

One of my favorite Bible stories in the gospels is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. It is found in John 11:1-44 and contains material central to our faith. "Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again. I am the resurrection and the life..."

This is one of the great and essential truths of our Christian faith; that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and that Jesus has conquered death for us all. Indeed, it is a core belief, for all the evidence says that the disciples would not have gone forth evangelizing, risking their very lives, continuing their commitment to Jesus if they had not experienced the presence of the risen Christ. Christianity is built solidly around the foundation of the assurance of that resurrection.

Years later, the apostle Paul wrote the same thing when he penned these words "...if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14). Paul continues his letter by stating triumphantly, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead...so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:20, 22).

I pray that during this season of Lent and the approaching Easter season we may all take a long hard look at our faith lives and spiritual health and ask ourselves: Do I believe as Martha states, "Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."? Are we ready to go forth in commitment as the disciples did after the resurrection of Jesus? Are we willing to step up

in our faith journeys like the apostle Paul and state triumphantly with all our heart that "Christ has been raised from the dead!"?

This is what the Easter event is all about. This is what our faith is all about. This is what it means to come worshiping and praising God every week. Let your faith be resurrected during this season of Lent as we prepare ourselves for Easter. Join Martha, the disciples of Jesus, Paul, and others in proclamation and commitment to Jesus Christ: the Resurrection and Life.

Blessings and Peace,  
*Pastor Curtis*



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*The Executive Council will meet on 3/15/10, 5/24/10, 8/30/10, 11/29/10 (Budget Informational Meeting) and 12/6/10 at 7:00 p.m.*

*The Executive Council is seeking individuals to help plan our church's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If you are interested, please let Art DeJager know at 656-7818.*

**APRIL NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:  
Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Nancy Haberl  
Amy Bentley
- 8 Courtney Bentley
- 10 Laurel Acunto
- 12 Nancy Root
- 14 Hazel Laczak  
Jody Hartley
- 16 Vera Babiy  
Jim Gagnon
- 17 Priscilla Boutilier
- 19 Dorris Olsen
- 31 Jesse Hartley



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Ron and Jean Compeau
- 18 David and Barbara Morse
- 26 Donald and Alayne Simmonds
- 28 Henry and Lois Brown

*(Any additions or changes, please contact the church office at 656-4923)*

## FAMILIES IN NEED

On the first Sunday of every month the Mission Committee collects 5 items for families in need; Toothpaste 5 oz., Bath Soap 4.5 oz., Shampoo 15 oz., Dish Soap 12.6 oz., and individually wrapped bathroom tissue. Boxes are provided in the Social Hall and Narthex.

**Thanks for your help in supporting this project.**

## FOOD PANTRY

A collection is held the last Sunday of every month for the Food Pantry. Boxes are provided in the Narthex and the Social Hall. Please help support those less fortunate. Boxes are always available if you forget to bring in your items on the last Sunday.



## CLOTHING BANK

If you have clothes you no longer need or no longer fit, there is a Clothing Bank in the village. It is located above the village office. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to Noon every Tuesday and Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Saturday. Items are free and they will accept gently used clothing, shoes, boots, coats, etc.



## COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Executive Council - Art DeJager, 656-7818

Board of Property - Phil Gagnon, Chair,

656-7730

Deacons - Donna Possemato, Chair, 656-7964

Board of Education - Laurel Acunto, 656-9094

Music Ministry - Amy Root, 656-8990

Mission Comm. - Carol DeJager, 656-7818

Women's Fellowship - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647

Head Ushers - Jim Gagnon, 656-9127 &

Bob Root, 656-8990

Altar Flowers - Margaret Bryant, 656-8201

Prayer Chain - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647

Care Team - Peg French, 204-0079

Parish Nurse - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647

## Men's Fellowship Meeting

The next Men's Fellowship meeting will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Come out and join us as we talk about the issues of our day, and have a bible study. Come alone or bring a friend, but plan on being a part of this group as we seek to inspire and encourage one another in our daily lives.

## GREENE OPEN DOOR SOUP KITCHEN

The Greene Open Door Soup Kitchen will be serving our St. Patrick's Day dinner on Friday, March 12. Volunteers are always welcome during the day, starting at 9am. Serving begins at 5:30. We will be having ham, cabbage, potatoes, rolls and dessert. Samantha Howell will be making the holiday decorations! Please join us for dinner and spend some time serving others.

Katha Root

***PLEASE GIVE ANY SUGGESTIONS  
FOR OUR 200<sup>TH</sup> YEAR  
CELEBRATION IN MAY 2011  
TO CAROL DEJAGER.  
WE ARE MAKING PLANS NOW.  
THANK YOU.***

## UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

Alice Crittenden  
286 Deyo Hill Road – Hilltop  
Apt. 1122E  
Johnson City, NY 13790

*THESE DAYS are available in the Narthex and Social Hall. Pick up your copy next time you are at church.*

## Lenten Schedule

\*Luncheon to Follow

- 2/25 Lenten Service @ Zion Episcopal Church 12:05 p.m.\*
- 3/4 Lenten Service @ Baptist Church with Assembly of God 12:05 p.m.\*
- 3/11 Lenten Service @ First Congregational Church 12:05 p.m.\*
- 3/18 Lenten Service @ Central Baptist Church 12:05 p.m.\*
- 3/25 Lenten Service @ United Methodist Church 12:05 p.m.\*
- 3/28 Palm Sunday Service @ First Congregational Church 9:55 a.m.
- 4/1 Maundy Thursday Service @ First Congregational Church 7:30 p.m.
- 4/2 Good Friday Service @ United Methodist Church 12:05 p.m.\*
- 4/4 Easter Sunrise Service @ Elementary School 6:30 a.m. with breakfast to follow at the First Congregational Church 7:00 a.m.  
Easter Service at First Congregational Church 9:55 a.m.



## COFFEE HOUR

This is a schedule for the next four months. If you can't participate on a Sunday for which you are scheduled, please call a friend and ask them to switch with you.

If you're not on the list, and would like to help with coffee hour, please call Paula at 656-9258. Coffee hour is just a nice time to socialize with each other after the Sunday service. If you have coffee and punch, that's good enough. Enjoy.

March 7 Jim and Cindy Gagnon/Phil and Sharon Gagnon

March 14 Alta Martin/ Dave and Marlene Sherwood

March 21 Bob and Nancy Root/Amy Root/Katha Root

March 28 John and Ellie Rugg/Ron and Jean Compeau

Apr. 4 Russ & Nancy Haberl/ Pam Whitman and Family

Apr 11 Baptist Church

Apr. 18 Art & Carol DeJager/ Lois Brown

Apr 25 Ruth Bennett/Susan Borhardt

May 2 Paula Basa/Jody Hartley

May 9 Fred & Donna Kroncke/ Pam Whitman & Family

May 16 Margaret Bryant/ Kent & Jessie Garringer

May 23 Maggie & Charlie Hurtgam/George & Kathy Estey

May 30 Nancy Sloan/ Karen Scott

June 6 George & Peg Marr/Loretta & Colby Meister

June 13 Tim & Mary Gell/Pat Ford

June 20 Steve & Cherie Bentley/Dan & Laurel Acunto

June 27 Donna Possemato/ Chris & Peg French

Thank you all very much for all you do.

Paula Basa



## Easter Lilies

**Would you like to place a lily in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>?**

**If so, please complete the form below and return to Kathy Estey or Nancy Sloan c/o First Congregational Church (28 N. Chenango St., Greene, NY 13778) or you may place in the Secretary's box at the church by Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

I would like to place a lily in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_ (deceased)

In honor of

\_\_\_\_\_ (living)

Given by

*Please check one:*  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will purchase the lily.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like you to purchase the lily.  
(Please make checks payable to the First Congregational Church)

Please indicate how many lilies:

\_\_\_\_\_ Lily @ \$8.00 each



***Easter Lily order deadline is Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>!***

## PROPERTY BOARD

A small but enthusiastic group of Property Board members and Pastor Curtis met for our February meeting. Ruth Bennett will continue as Secretary and Phil Gagnon (as of the following morning) will be our new Chair. The Board also welcomed new member John Ludolph, wished Fred Kroncke a speedy recovery from his surgery, said “bon voyage” to traveler, Charlie Hurtgam, and is looking forward to a busy year.

Ruth prepared several handouts to aid in the years work. One was an updated list of general maintenance, work projects and administrative items involved in the ongoing work of the Board, for member’s information and use. The other was a list of special project assignments to be worked on throughout the year. Some projects are carryovers such as the final grading of the old barn site, the cleaning of the heating fin tubes in the Sanctuary, and repairing doors and locks. Others are new, such as arranging for a new leased copier to replace the old existing one, whose lease is expiring soon. Due to our Church’s current economic status and the type of projects on our list, we will also continue to enlist the aid of our wonderful “volunteers” to help us with projects and work days. All together, we will continue to strive to keep our lovely Church in good condition and use.

The Board also did its monthly review of room use requests: To avoid concerns about whether or not a facility or area may be available for your particular activity, we encourage you to check the calendar in Secretary’s Linda Teter’s office and put your request in early. We also realize that with so many activities going on, that it’s hard to find time to do necessary maintenance... and special workdays and projects should be scheduled as well. With a little advanced notice and flexibility, it is usually possible to accommodate people’s plans.

As in the past, the Board continues to look at ways to stretch our finances as far as possible.

We appreciate your continued efforts to keep thermostats at lower setting levels, to turn off lights, and to shut doors tightly when leaving. The doors are quirky...some close in a particular order and some just stick. We have the repairs on our list, but need your help in the meantime to keep the winter cold out and our security intact.

Best wishes for an early Spring!

Ruth Bennett  
Secretary



### Just a reminder...

Since the monthly newsletter is no longer mailed, please remember that if you change your address to call the church office at 656-4923. We need to keep our records up to date for other mailings and the church directory.

THANKS!

(Please also call the church if you change your e-mail address.)



### *Grief and Loss Support Group Offered in Greene*

Brenda Birdsall, bereavement coordinator from Hospice of Chenango County is facilitating a monthly support group to those in the community who are coping with the loss of a loved one. This group is open to all community individuals (no prior connection to Hospice is required.) This support group will be held the second Thursday morning of each month from 10-11:30 a.m.; it will meet in the First Congregational Church’s library and the next meeting will be on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Brenda Birdsall at 334-3556 with any questions.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### *Sunday School Easter Mission Project*

The Sunday School will be collecting items for our Easter Baskets for shut-in mission project. We will be looking for the following items: large baskets, cellophane bags to put the baskets in, candy, coffee mugs, tea bags, small plants, note cards, pencils, pens, puzzle books such as word finds, Sudoku, cross word puzzles, books, Easter knick knacks, etc. Be creative, use your imagination. There are many things that would be appropriate to put in the baskets. We will be collecting these items during the months of February and March. Please give them to any child, or leave in the church office marked "Sunday School." We will be handing out baskets to be delivered Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

Thank you, Laurel Acunto

## WISH – Women Into Spiritual Health

Attention Ladies seeking spiritual enrichment! A small group would like to start meeting. Please call Mary Ludolph at 656-7945 if you are interested and let her know your availability.

## Mystery Prints in the Library

Several months ago, two framed black-and-white prints were left in the library. I do not know who donated/left the prints, nor do I know who the artist is, as the prints are not signed. I have made some inquiries but no one I have asked was able to provide any information. The prints appear to be beach or marshland scenes.

I would greatly appreciate any information anyone can provide about the prints, especially the identity of the artist. I do not want to place them until I can identify them.

We are currently out of wall space in the library, so please hold off on any additional donations that would need to be placed on a wall. Thanks for your continued generosity and consideration of this request.

Peg Marr, Church Librarian



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

In John 21:15-17 Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" If you are familiar with this scripture, you may know that after Peter confesses to loving Jesus, Jesus tells him, "Feed my sheep." We too are called to care for all who are in need, just as God cares for each of us.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will receive our annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. More than ever, we need to support this with our donations so funds will be available for future disasters and ongoing programs like our missionaries in countries around the world. Our offering will also help replenish funds used for Haiti. So when you are thinking about how much to give, please remember what Jesus told us to do – "Feed my sheep". Please give generously and may God bless each of you as you choose to help others once again.

## EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST

Our church will be the host for the Community Breakfast after the Easter Sunrise service on April 4. Donna Moorhead and I will plan and prepare the main dish, an egg/meat casserole. We are asking others to bring a breakfast item to serve. It could be fruit, bagels, donuts, coffee cake or anything similar. Please have it at the church by 6:45 a.m. on Easter morning. We will fix the coffee and prepare juice. Thank you in advance.

Katha Root



## **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE AT WORK IN HAITI**

*Last month you were asked to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. One of the ways listed was to give to Church World Service. Their latest news release shows how your donations have been used to help this very poor country.*

### **Church World Service - Haiti**

- Church World Service deliveries began within the first 24 hours.
- Church World Service has provided Kits, blankets, tents, medical supplies, food and water
- Food and supply distribution points supported in part by Church World Service have been established in 5 sites
- Church World Service is providing 60 medicine boxes- each box contains essential medicines and medical supplies to treat the routine ailments of about 1000 people for up to 2 months.
- Church World Service is working with partners to construct temporary water systems, providing water purification supplies, tents and food packages
- Church World Service is expanding work with people with disabilities in Port-au-Prince in concert with our partner Service Chretien d'Haiti. This population is not able to go stand in line to get aide-to reach this population Kits, food and water are personally being delivered by staff and trained volunteers.
- Trauma and psycho-social care specialists are providing assistance for individuals, especially children. Services will also be provided for aid workers.

- CWS has provided more than \$700,000 (as of 1/31) worth of aid and material resources to assist Haitian families affected by the earthquake.
- Long-term CWS work will focus on food security in rural areas.

*If you would like to continue to help Church World Service do its work in Haiti, you may send your donations to:*

Church World Service  
28606 Phillips Street  
P.O. Box 968  
Elkhart, IN, 46515

*Be sure to note that your donation is for Haiti on the Memo line. Thank you for your love for those in need.*

## **YOUR BLESSINGS FOR HAITI**

Last month a plea went out to our church members and our community asking for help for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. We had all seen the devastation each time we turned on the television and it just tore at our hearts. Once again, your response was to help those less fortunate. Our church members gave \$404 to the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing fund. These will help our missionaries and other church workers reach the people with great need.

On Friday, January 22nd, Pastor Curtis planned a healing service for Haiti and invited the community to worship with us. During the service we received an offering for the National Red Cross Disaster Fund. Again everyone was generous. We were able to send \$1,275 for the Red Cross to use to help the Haitians. WOW!! That's almost \$1,700 from our community to be given to help others. We are so blessed with people who want to help God's children when they are in dire need. God will bless you for your generosity.

## 2010 13<sup>th</sup> Annual \$1 Million Giveaway To Fight Hunger

For the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide using it to help them raise funds during March and April, 2010.

The more donations made to the Greene Area Churches Food Pantry from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> – the more of the Feinstein money we will receive.

Only donations or pledges received from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>, and from use of the Feinstein challenge, should be counted. These donations can include cash, checks and food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound) or pledges, as long as they are obtained ONLY from use of this challenge.

The Feinstein million dollars will be divided proportionately among all agencies complying with the above (a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$40,000 to participating agencies). Checks are mailed to each participating agency by August 1st, 2010

Feinstein's \$1 million challenges to fight hunger have raised a record \$940 million for agencies nationwide. All donors who donate toward this campaign are partners in the most successful grassroots campaign to fight hunger of all times. That is something you all can take pride in!

The Greene Area Churches Food Pantry has participated in this challenge for the past few years. For 2009 our challenge was to exceed \$4,000 in food and money donations. You met the challenge and the total was \$4,604.31. We feel this challenge to our community was well worth the efforts. We thank all who participated and made this a successful challenge. Let's meet the challenge again for 2010.

Your donations may go to your local church OR you may mail or deliver directly to the Food Pantry located at the Berean Bible Church using the door in the left wing entrance. Checks can be made out to GAC Food Pantry, PO Box 493, Greene, NY 13778. Attn: Food Pantry. This is the only fund raiser the Greene Area Churches Food Pantry promotes throughout the year.

-Connie Tallett, Coordinator, GAC Food Pantry

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our ladies celebrated UCC Women's Week in style. The week began on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010, and each lady was presented with a carnation and the Women's Fellowship program for the year 2010. Several ladies, their children and grandchildren took part in the service as greeters, scripture readers and the offering.

At mid week, we met in spite or despite a considerable snow event – we are a hearty group. Ten of us gathered for a simple supper, some nice social time and a lovely worship service by Donna Moorhead taken from "The Common Lot", a UCC publication for women.

Our next gathering will be Tuesday, March 23, at 9:30 AM to visit with friends, have coffee and assemble our kits for Church World Service. I urge you to join us!

Some of our members will be taking part in the World Day of Prayer with women from other churches in our community - this year to be held at Immaculate Conception Church on Friday, March 5, 2010.

Our turn to host the Lenten Luncheon will be March 11, 2010 and we will need kitchen help and the homemade pies that we are famous for!

Donna Moorhead, Helen Boudreau, Chris Hoepfner and I will be attending the Annual UCCNY Women's Conference at Watson Homestead April 29 through May 1, 2010. If you are interested in attending all or part of the conference, see one of us for information. It is a great event!

Sharon Fowler



## HISTORICALLY SPEAKING AND SEEKING

My mission to determine the contents of the Time Capsule that was assembled on June 1, 1986, is completed thanks to Donna Moorhead. Donna gave me a copy of the Service of Internment of the Time Capsule, which was conducted on May 29, 1994, Memorial Day Sunday. Included with this document was a map showing the location of the Time Capsule, which is to be reopened 100 years from June 1, 1986, making that date June 1, 2086.

Items 1 through 14 were included at the time of the Church Homecoming Service, which was held June 1, 1986, but the capsule was not buried at that time. Our Time Capsule contains:

1. A list of current active members of the First Congregational Church in Greene, along with addresses, professions, and date of membership.
2. A copy of the Annual Report of the 1986 Congregational Meeting.
3. A copy of the Church History Booklet, 1986 edition, along with a copy of a skit and program of the church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
4. Copies of the old and new building plans.
5. A copy of the June 2, 1985, bulletin, which was the first Sunday after the fire.
6. A copy of the April 1986 church newsletter "The Congregation," and a copy of "New Beginning," a temporary newsletter dealing with rebuilding information.
7. A copy of current by-laws of the church.
8. Roster of Sunday school children and teachers for the 1985–1986 school year.
9. A ginkgo leaf and its history. (Why a ginkgo leaf? This beloved ginkgo tree had to be cut down to give way to the side entrance ramp.)
10. A copy of *The New York Times*, Sunday edition, June 1, 1986.
11. A copy of the *Binghamton Press and Sun Bulletin* for June 1, 1986.

12. A copy of the *Chenango American* of Greene for the week of May 25, 1986.
13. An audio tape recording of the May 25, 1986, church service, with choir music.
14. A copy of the Homecoming Service of Worship, June 1, 1986.
15. A copy of this Service of Internment, May 29, 1994.

Speculation was raised at the January meeting of the Bicentennial Committee as to where the Time Capsule was buried. For example, was it encased in the concrete foundation of the building? If so, how could it ever be retrieved? Time capsules are supposed to be able to be opened at a later specified date.

Mystery number 2 is solved, again thanks to Donna's careful documentation. (Donna was our church secretary in 1994, when the Time Capsule was buried.) The Time Capsule is buried under the urn in the herb garden between the manse and the sanctuary. It would be fun to be present at the Time Capsule's retrieval in 76 years, but unless we begin to have the lifespan of Methuselah, (Noah's grandfather, who is said to have lived 969 years) we won't make it. Sherman Ludolph, however, will be only 76 years old on June 1, 2086. We hope the children in our church family who will be septuagenarians and octogenarians in that year will be present for the Time Capsule's retrieval. Your historian plans to be there in spirit; please consider joining me. ☺



**Daylight Savings Time Begins on  
March 14<sup>th</sup>. Remember...set your  
clocks ahead one hour!**

## CANCER – A Six Letter “Dirty” Word

In the last 3 months we have added several people to our prayer chain that have been diagnosed with cancer. For many of us, these are family members or very close friends that have been told, “You have cancer”. We pray for them and offer to do what we can to help them through these very stressful times.

Another way you can help is to become involved with the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life – the walk to raise funds for research, education and financial help. The walk will take place July 16 and 17 at the Chenango County Fairgrounds in Norwich. The theme for this year is “Somewhere over the rainbow Relay continues the fight - The many colors of cancer”.

Our church will once again have a team walking and raising funds for this very worthy cause. We would love to have a team of at least **15** people who are willing to walk around the clock from 6:30 PM on Friday, through the night and finish up at 10 AM on Saturday. We are asked to have at least one person walking at all times.

So are you interested? It’s not too soon to sign up! Please let Donna Moorhead or Joan Paino know that you would like to join us this year. We’ll give you the information needed and answer your questions. Also if you have suggestions on how to decorate our site or ideas for fundraisers, please pass them along to Donna or Joan. Everyone’s input is important and a way for you to become involved.

Mark your calendars and come walk with us so we can get rid of that dirty word! God bless.



## MISSION COMMITTEE

Pastor Curtis led us all in prayer after we discussed the medical concerns of members of our congregation. We went over the Treasurer’s Report and correspondence/thank you cards we received since our last meeting.

We welcomed our new member, George Estey and familiarized him on all our Missions and WIC projects for the year. The members expressed their thanks to Ellie Rugg for her hard work and commitment to our mission work for the last four years.

The church sent \$1,147.00 for the Haiti Relief Fund to the Red Cross and our members generously gave \$430.30 to our Family Thank Box Collection. The committee sent a donation to the Open Door Kitchen for their continued hard work in supplying food and fellowship for the community.

We plan to contact Amy Gregory to re-schedule her presentation on the mission work in Bosnia and also plan to continue our contributions to our micro-lending projects.

Our members discussed the various plans for our church’s bicentennial celebration; we plan to put up various displays of our mission work. Pastor Curtis has asked our new UCC President, Geoffrey Black, to preach on either May 14<sup>th</sup> or the 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 and is awaiting his response.

Listed below are the positions we filled for the new year:

Chairperson - Carol DeJager  
Secretary/Newsletter - Nancy Haberl  
WIC Coordinator - Carol DeJager  
WIC helper - George Estey  
5 for 5 Coordinator - Donna Moorhead  
Rotary Christmas Families - Donna Moorhead/Lois Brown (all members helping)  
Family Thank Boxes - Nancy Haberl

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Our next meeting will be April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.

Nancy Haberl, Secretary

## MODERATORS REPORT

I wanted to take this opportunity to follow up on the annual meeting. Overall the meeting went very well. There were a few members who wanted to enter into a discussion on the finances of the church and were upset that we did not provide more detail of the church's finances at that meeting. Please put this date on your calendar: November 29, 2010 at 7:00 pm. This is the date of the next budget informational meeting. As a member of this church you have the right to know all the details of the church's financial situation. It will be spelled out in detail at this meeting. You need to be at this meeting if you have questions or concerns of a financial nature and we will make every attempt to answer them to your satisfaction. After this meeting the budget will change very little. The budget will be presented for a vote of approval at next year's annual meeting with very little discussion about the detail. If you have questions about the finances before then, please call or set up an appointment with our Treasurer, Amy Root.

The purpose of an annual meeting is to reflect on what has happened over the past year. However, ours seems to focus on a discussion of the churches' finances and neglects the ministries and all that they have accomplished. We assume that reading the reports in the Annual Report is sufficient. People frequently ask for more financial detail at the meeting, which is usually followed by the question: "What are the salaries of the people who work here?" Is that really what our church is about? I don't think so either. Therefore, next year our annual meeting will have a theme: "Where have you seen God at work in the life of this church while you were serving on the board, committee or ministry team?" It is my hope that this meeting will be an extension of worship and not a tense discussion of finances. Curtis has agreed to help plan it and we will work with Executive Council to make it a time to thank God for what he has done for us here at First Congregational Church.

I want to thank Jim Gagnon for the time he spent as Treasurer and also for asking that an audit be performed at the end of his term. This sparked a discussion where we realized that we have not had an audit for three years. Some members expressed concern that the By-Laws require an audit every year and we should do as the By-Laws require. We will make every effort to comply with an annual audit of the financial records. An Audit Committee was formed and the audit of the 2009 financial records has already been completed.

If we must adhere to the rules set forth in the By-Laws regarding the finances, then we must adhere to the entire By-Laws as well. I turn your attention to the Article IV of the By-Laws, the section on Faith and Covenant, specifically the part on our core values. During the annual meeting a comment was made by a member of this church to our Pastor and his wife that was inappropriate and very hurtful. It also violated two of our core values: Compassion and Belonging. These values state that we as members will perform actions that welcome and accept all people and help them experience the good feeling of God's unconditional love. It also states that we support our commitment to all others to nurture a family relationship of belonging. When a member makes a hurtful comment toward another member, such as the one made toward our pastor and his wife, it destroys the love we as members are supposed to show. It also is not an action that welcomes and accepts or nurtures a relationship of belonging. We profess to show God's love to others. We must show it to our brothers and sisters in Christ as well. If you need more reason to make sure that comments are not hurtful, I quote to you Ephesians 4:29: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." This responsibility lies with all of us, not just with the pastor or others who hold office in this church.

Art DeJager

## SUMMER PARTY

Spring will soon be here! Well, it's about 2 months away. If you're getting tired of the cold and snow, then help us chase the cold weather away and usher in warmer weather. Join us for an "I Can't Wait for Summer" party on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverage will be provided. There will be fun and games for children of all ages and lots of fun for adults as well. Please sign up on the poster in the social hall with how many will be attending. Hope to see you there!



## DEACON'S DOING

Lenten time is here:

2/25 Zion Episcopal Church Lenten Service  
12:05 P.M.  
3/4 Baptist Church w/Assembly Of God  
Lenten 12:05 P.M.  
3/11 First Congregational Church Lenten  
Service 12:05 P.M.  
3/18 Central Baptist Church Lenten Service  
12:05 P.M.  
3/25 United Methodist Church Lenten Service  
12:05 P.M.  
3/28 First Congregational Church Palm Sunday  
9:55 A.M.  
4/1 First Congregational Church Maundy  
Thursday 7:30 P.M.  
4/2 United Methodist Church Good Friday  
Service 12:05 P.M.  
4/4 Elementary School Easter Sunrise Service  
6:30 A.M.  
First Congregational Church Breakfast  
7:00 A.M.  
First Congregational Church Easter Service  
9:55 A.M.

Tired of this cold, wet winter? Lets plan to go to a summer party in March. If you missed last year's party make sure to attend this years. I Can't Wait for Summer Party will be on Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M. Lots to eat with lots of Fun and Games. Just bring a dish to pass, place setting and your appetite. Please sign up on the poster in the social hall with how many will be attending.

Sunday School children are collecting items for Easter Baskets to fill for Shut-ins Mission Project. Looking for the following items: large baskets, cellophane bags to put the baskets in, candy, coffee mugs, tea bags, small plants, note cards, pencils, pens, puzzle books, Easter knick knacks, etc. They will be collecting items during the months of February and March. Last year was a great success and fun for the children to make up. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Please keep all who are sick and who needs help in your prayers. Also prayers for Curtis, so he can keep strong and to guide us through whatever we need to go through.

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care...Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:2,7 (NIV)

God Bless You All,  
Pat Ford, Deacon's Secretary

