

Highland Highlights

February 13 – February 20, 2019

First Congregational
Church
United Church of Christ



309 Highland Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

Office Hours: 9:00- 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 607-257-6033

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 13

1:00 p.m. Bible-side Chats (a.k.a. Bible Study)

Thursday, February 14

3:15 p.m. Kendal service

6:00 p.m. Handbells

7:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal (choir room)

Sunday, February 17

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

11:20 a.m. Junior chime rehearsal

11:20 a.m. Junior bell rehearsal

11:20 a.m. *AfterWord: Global Warming: "What our church has done and can do about it"* by John Zollweg (chapel)

12:30 p.m. Lunch Bunch (Ramada Inn)

Monday, February 18

10:30 a.m. Women's book study (library)

Tuesday, February 19

3:00 p.m. Finance committee meeting

7:00 p.m. Ithaca concert band (FH)

Wednesday, February 20

1:00 p.m. Bible-side Chats (a.k.a. Bible Study)

Thursdays, February 21

6:00 p.m. Handbells

7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (choir room)

Sunday, February 24

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

11:20 a.m. Junior chime rehearsal

11:20 a.m. Junior bell rehearsal

11:20 a.m. Sanctuary Church Discussion

Please Note

Lunch Bunch—We will meet again on **February 17th at 12:30pm at the Ramada Inn** on Triphammer Rd. Lunch Bunch meets every 3rd Sunday. Please sign up in the Narthex.

February-Special Outreach Offering-St. Johns Community Services as of- November 1st, 2018, St. John's Community Services took over operations of the Ithaca homeless shelter in Ithaca, New York. Through the shelter, emergency housing is provided to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Food pantry and emergency food services are also provided to those in need.

Ray Edwin Memorial Fund-A memorial fund has been set up in honor of Ray Edwin through Tompkins Trust Company. The fund will provide scholarships to Dryden High School students who through their actions demonstrate a commitment to marginalized peoples and to end bullying. Several members and friends have expressed an interest in donating to this fund. All checks can be made out to Bonnie Edwin or to Andrea Russo (Bonnie and Ray's daughter) with "Diversity Scholarship" in the memo line. You can give your check directly to Bonnie or leave it in the office in an envelope for Bonnie to collect. Thank you for supporting an issue that Ray was passionate about in his life.

❖ Readers, ushers, coffee servers, greeters, acolytes, offering counters, and flower providers are needed. Please sign up in the narthex or online through SignUpGenius. **SignUpGenius link:**
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0849aab2ba3fa7-sunday2>

Sunday February 17, 2019

Offering Counters: Eugene Yarussi, Robert Sternberg

Reader: Robert Sternberg

Greeters: (2 slots open)

Flowers: Jim & Rhonda Gilmore

Coffee/Snacks: Joyce Billing-cookies (2 slots open for coffee)

Ushers: Michael Kazarinoff, Frances Kozen, Dexter Kozen, Cyndi Slothower

Acolytes: Isaiah Brennan Smith

February

Children & Youth

- ❖ Warm Wooly Tree in entry, **February 1-February 24** Ithaca's Share the Warmth campaign from the end of last year was able to collect warm gear for many in our community, but it wasn't enough. We're following up with our Warm Wooly Tree beginning this week. Community partners have specifically asked for more winter gloves and hand warmers, but all new or gently-used winter gear will be accepted. Because of the expected cold temperatures, donations will be dropped off as they come in to make sure they get to those who need them!

AfterWord

- ❖ The AfterWord for **Sunday, February 17**, is presented by John Zollweg on "Global Warming: What Our Church Has Done and Can Do About It" There are usually two parts to solving a major problem-what we do and what we encourage others to do. This AfterWord will cover what has been done at our church, what we can do at our homes, and how we can be involved in influencing how our society deals with our changing climate. Please come and join us after worship at the chapel.

Susan Fast

- ❖ Will be leading a worship service on **February 24, 2019 at Longview's Chapel at 2:00 p.m.** Bring your singing voices and your joy as we share in worship with the Longview community.

Sanctuary Church Discussion

- ❖ Sanctuary Church Congregational Discussion-Over the past few months, with the help of the Action FCC group and the Adult Education Committee, we have been engaged as a congregation in the process of awareness and discernment about the possibility of becoming Sanctuary Church. On **Sunday, February 24**, please stay for a congregational discussion on this topic immediately following worship. This will be an important opportunity to ask questions and share perspectives. Child care will be provided.

World Peace begins in your own backyard

- ❖ On **Thursday, February 28th from 6:00 to 8:00pm**, the Interfaith Community of the greater Lansing-Ithaca area, and local Community Members invite you to an Interfaith Community Dish-to-Pass, hosted by the Lansing United Methodist Church, 32 Brickyard Road in Lansing.
 - Please bring a **labeled vegetarian/dairy dish-to-pass** and an open heart to meet new friends. If time or budget, make bringing a dish a hardship, please be our guest! This event is free and open to all. We welcome all of our neighbors from all Faith traditions: Christian, Muslim, Jewish, etc., and those unaffiliated with a specific faith group; **ALL** are truly welcome.
 - YOU can make a difference. It's not just about a great meal and great conversation (Although you will experience both of these). It's about building relationships and setting an example for our children, our community, and the world.

March

Mission Quilt Day at St. Luke Lutheran

- ❖ The Peace by Piece group at St. Luke meets twice a month to make quilts. Last year, our quilts went to Armenia, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Rwanda, among other places. We invite you to come and take part in our special intro day where you can learn about this project of Lutheran World Relief. We are having an open house on **March 16th 2019 at 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** All events will be in the downstairs in the Fellowship Hall of St. Luke Lutheran Church, 103 Oak Ave., Ithaca. Please feel free to bring donations of extra fabric (especially big pieces!) or thread. For more information please contact: Aara Edwards if you have any questions at (607) 592-9766 or by email at aara@post.harvard.edu. Please check out the flyer located on the bulletin outside the church's office at FCCI for more information.

One Funny Ithaca Story: Houses of Worship Edition

- ❖ On **Sunday, March 31 at 2:00-3:30 p.m.** at FCCI. Frist Congregational Church of Ithaca will host and Rev. Dr. Kaden will participate at this fun event to benefit the Cancer Resource Center, along with a diverse line-up of area faith leaders from downtown houses of worship, the campuses, and the hospital. Please join, like, invite and share our Facebook event page, and help us spread the word! For more information please contact: Gary Stewart at gjs28@cornell.edu. To benefit the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes <http://www.crcfl.net/index.php/one-funny-ithaca-story-31118/>

FCC Against Hate Action

- ❖ **Interested in exploring the roots of and taking action against hate?** A new group is forming at our church called FCC-AHA (FCC Against Hate Action). We plan to read material on the underlying causes of hate, learn more about how hate groups form, and explore the ways in which our progressive faith tradition can equip us to live more fully in the way of love as modeled by Jesus. The Anti-Defamation League reports that anti-Semitic incidents increased 57% last year in the U.S. (*Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents*, 2017). Many mass shootings in our country, including especially the recent shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue, are motivated by what philosopher Peter Sloterdijk describes as a "rage" that has deep roots in western history. Dehumanization of the "other" seems to drive so much cruelty, and yet scripture is clear: "You must not hate another person ...; you must love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:17-18). In what ways can our faith equip us to love better and to live differently? If you're interested in thinking more deeply about these issues and in taking action *against hate* in our town and world, please join this group! For more information, **contact Rev. David Kaden**.

Make a Difference

Outreach Special Offerings for 2019-In an effort to give our congregation an opportunity to plan their giving for the year Outreach is publishing our list of special offerings for 2019. Each month we will continue to highlight the offering of the month with more in-depth information about that organization's mission.

Please note that special offerings run for the calendar month only unless otherwise specified.

As always please mark your memo line and the front of the pew envelope so that your generous gift is allocated as you wish.

Special offerings for the year

February: St. Johns (formerly Rescue Mission)-emergency shelter/ friendship center.

March: Protestant Cooperative Ministries UCC 5 for 5 special mission One Great Hour of Sharing collected on March 31st.

April: Church World Service- national and international relief through cleanup, hygiene and school kits as well as blankets for refugees.

May: Fresh Snack program- fresh local foods and nutritional education to local elementary students.

June: Family Reading Partnership- early literacy program for Tompkins County UCC 5 for 5 special mission Strengthen the Church collected on June 9th.

July: UCC 5 for 5 special mission Christmas in July.

August: Kitchen Cupboard diaper/hygiene drive.

September: Feed My Starving Children- Support for Ithaca Mobile Pack.

October: UCC U.S. based Natural Disaster relief UCC 5 for 5 special mission Neighbors in Need collected October 6th.

November: Kitchen Cupboard- Supplemental nutritional assistance for Tompkins County Residents.