

Easter Season at the Byron Presbyterian Church

Isaiah 42:1-4

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching."

Bible Studies on Tuesday, March 24 & April 28, 7 PM

Palm Sunday, April 5, 9:45 AM - Hosanna!

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6:30 PM Please bring a dish to share, or just come directly from work and enjoy the meal!

Good Friday, April 10, 6:30 PM at North Bergen Presbyterian

Easter Sunday Celebration, April 12, 9:45 AM

Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for young children on the church lawn. Please bring in One Great Hour of Sharing contributions today!

Presbytery Mission Day

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

The Presbyterian Churches of Genesee County, our "Country Neighbors", are hosting Presbytery Mission Day in Batavia. It will be a morning of hands-on mission at Crossroads House, NYS Vets Home, Serenity House and more. Meet at the Batavia Presbyterian Church at 8:30 AM, and finish with noontime lunch at the church to finish out the day. We may be doing some serious work, so please dress accordingly with sturdy foot wear and work clothes. This event is for all ages! Please register in advance with Rev. Jim Renfrew.

The Presbytery meeting on the same day begins with lunch at noon, also at the Batavia Presbyterian Church.

The Basics

* Sunday Worship
begins at 9:45 AM,

- * Sunday School and Christian Education for younger and older children happens during the worship hour.
- * Nursery Care during the worship hour.
- * Contact Pastor Jim Renfrew at 548-2800 or at 585-813-2934. pastor@byronfpc.org

Prayer Chain: See-Saw Ahead?

I am a bit mystified about this sign. It's yellow, which means "warning" or "danger", but why would we need to be warned about a see-saw? It's just children having fun! Or maybe there's more to it than that?

When I was a child it was not uncommon for the kid at the lower end to suddenly jump off and the one riding high would suddenly crash to the ground. So, OK, a potential spinal or pelvic injury could merit a warning sign like this!

It's more likely that the sign is simply warning us that there is a playground nearby and to drive cautiously

Or maybe it is a sign indicating the need for prayers? And, why not, because in our lives we have lots of ups and downs. So, of course, we'll pray with you when you're feeling low, but also when you're flying high! Having prayer partners helps us stay a little more balanced, so we don't crash to the ground or fly off into space.

Have a new prayer to share with us while riding on the see-saw of life? All you need to do is call the church office at 548-2800. And your prayer will be our prayer, too! Hold on tight!

Byron PC on Facebook

Byron Presbyterian Church is on Facebook. We're easy to find, just search for "Byron Presbyterian Church" when you get to Facebook. You can also find a link to the Facebook page when visiting our website, byronfpc.org. Become one of our friends!

Newsletter Information

The newsletter is usually sent bi-monthly, but sometimes more frequently in the fall. The deadline for submissions is Sunday, April 26 for the May-June issue. We would prefer to send the newsletter to you as an e-mail attachment. Please send your e-mail address to the office, at office@byronfpc.org. We will not give out your address to anyone else without your permission. The newsletter is always posted to the church website, www.byronfpc.org. If you miss the Sunday worship service you can see each week's Sunday bulletin and most sermons on line, too.

Thank You!

We have received many positive comments from our newsletter readers, and we welcome your encouragement. We invite you to keep our Byron Presbyterian Church newsletter coming to you in months and years to come. If you are not already a church contributor, your contribution to help cover mailing and Internet costs would be welcomed. Checks may be made out to "Byron Presbyterian Church". Thank you!

[] YES, I want to help support the cost of the Byron Presbyterian Church newsletter.

I enclose \$__.

I prefer to receive the newsletter as an e-mail attachment

I prefer to receive the newsletter through the US Mail

Name

Address

Town/City

State

Zip

Phone

E-mail

Note: we do not circulate or publish e-mail addresses.

For Children in Worship

When Sunday School is not scheduled or for children who remain in worship, our CE/Worship Committee has prepared colorful activity bags for younger and older children to use and enjoy. An activity bag for babies is also available. They are kept at the rear of the sanctuary. Please leave the bags in the pews, so we know which ones to replenish after the service.

Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI)

The Vital Congregations Initiative is underway! It is during Lent that we will have an opportunity as a faith community to explore the Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation. We begin with Bible Study on February 25th at 7:00p lead by Jim Renfrew where we will explore the first Mark: Lifelong Discipleship Formation. Then, we have an opportunity to come together each week with a variety of activities, culminating on March 29th with the seventh Mark: Ecclesial Health. Here is the calendar for the exploration of the Seven Marks during Lent:

- ** **Tuesday, February 25** Bible Study, with Rev. Jim Renfrew
- ** **Sunday, March 1**, Refreshments after worship with a Family craft project
- ** **Sunday, March 8**, Sermon Dialogue following worship
- ** **Sunday, March 15**, Sermon Conversation during worship
- ** **Sunday, March 22**, Family Crafter project following worship
- ** **Tuesday, March 24**, Bible Study, with Elder Ruth Andes
- ** **Sunday, March 29**, Sermon Dialogue following worship

At a recent meeting some of us were commenting that it would be easier to work with the Seven Marks if they did not have such 'difficult' names! So, here is my shorthand attempt to help us understand what each Mark is asking us to explore as a church:

Mark 1: **Lifelong Discipleship Formation**: Living into and growing our faith, each day and every day.

Mark 2: **Intentional Authentic Evangelism**: Sharing the Good News by merging God's story with our story in our relationships with those in our lives.

Mark 3: **Outward Incarnational Focus**: Answering Christ's command to go out into the world sharing the Good News by answering the call to serve and be in mission.

Mark 4: **Empower Servant Leadership**: Helping everyone in our church community to identify and use their spiritual gifts in serving the Lord, both in the church and the larger world.

Mark 5: **Spirit Inspired Worship**: Worship that consistently and caringly calls us into a deeper relationship with God and with one another.

Mark 6: **Caring Relationships**: Seeing people as Christ sees them by meeting ALL people where they are and desiring their well-being within the household of God.

Mark 7: **Ecclesial Health**: Through prayerful discernment, are we who God is calling us to be and are we who we say we are --- could we be more fully committed to God's calling?

As we work our way through the Seven Marks, we need to focus on what we do well and what could we do better to glorify God in our church, in our lives, and in the world. Please join us for this spirit-fulfilling journey.

From the Pastor

And so our journey to Jerusalem begins. It's really Jesus' journey, of course, but we're following along with him as best we can. There are a number of ways to look at this journey, and a number of ways for you to participate in it.

First, we can regard it as a **geographical journey**, easily seen on a map, starting from *Nazareth* where he lived with his parents and became known as a carpenter, the shore of the *Sea of Galilee* where he found his first disciples, and *Capernaum* where many of the stories about healing took place. The journey starts in the rural countryside of Galilee, and heads south toward the big city of Jerusalem. It is a long journey, and it's all on foot.

Second, it is a **chronological journey**, time measured from Jesus' childhood and youth in Nazareth to his full maturity around 33 years old as he enters Jerusalem, ready to contend with the powers and principalities of his day. From the first day Jesus speaks about the Kingdom of God in his hometown to Easter morning takes about three years.

Third, it is also a **sociological journey**, from the rural periphery of nation, to its very heart in the urban center of Jerusalem. Galilee was considered far from the political, commercial and religious power centered in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the seat of the Roman authority that governed the land, and Jerusalem was the site of the great Jewish Temple. As Jesus' band of Galileans approach the big city they were considered little more than unsophisticated peasants. Some of the push-back against Jesus comes from the opposition's outrage that "country bumpkins" from Galilee might have anything of value to offer the rest of the world. So the story starts in the fringes of society, but by the end the apostles are not only preaching the Gospel in Jerusalem, but eventually in Rome, and finally in our own day to the ends of the earth! Not bad for a fringe message by a fringe character from a village no one had ever heard of.

One other way to measure the journey may be the most important. Fourth, it is also **your journey**, and I can't describe that journey as well as you can. Because you know where your faith journey began, in what village or town or neighborhood you had your start, the obstacles and the dead-ends you've faced, the temptations you've fallen for and short-cuts you've tried, the mountains you've climbed, the family and friends that have helped or hindered your progress, and, hopefully, a journey that has brought you your first glimpses of the journey's goal: the Cross and the Resurrection.

I am excited, this year, that the last stage of the journey to the Cross and Resurrection is filled with wonderful opportunities to reach out and serve, with multiple occasions to participate in the Vital Congregations Initiative, in One Great Hour of Sharing, in gathering the items needed for emergency hygiene kits, and to join with our youth in hands-on mission.

Happy Easter! Rev. Jim Renfrew

Preaching Texts

MAR 1	John 4:1-47	"What Are Your Intentions?"
MAR 8	Matthew 25:31-46	"Outward"
MAR 15	John 13:1-20	"Servanthood"
MAR 22	Hebrews 4:9-5:10	"Worship, There's More Than You"
MAR 29	Matthew 15:1-9	"Vitality"
APR 5	Psalms 118:19-29	"Open the Gates"
APR 12	John 19:38-20:18	"Were You There?"
APR 19	I Peter 1:3-9	"Hope That Lives"
APR 26	I Peter 1:17-23	"Born Anew"

In case you miss a Sunday, sermons are usually posted each week on the church web site.

Music Notes: "The Devil's in the Details"

I recently read a fascinating reflection by Christian author and organist Sharon Hinck that really resonated with me, as a church musician. In the passage I read Ms. Hinck was describing all of the time, focus, and tasks necessary to prepare musically for each Sunday service: keeping things on time, checking the registration for the hymns, organizing the music books so the service runs fluidly, etc. She also described how the service whips by, often ending with a triumphant postlude and a sense of accomplishment.

However, in the midst of all that flurry of activity, there is also the realization that many times we are so preoccupied with the tasks involved in the service that we didn't once in that past hour spend time truly

acknowledging the presence of Jesus. The saying goes, "The Devil is in the Details", and perhaps that is what the saying actually means: by spending so much time on the details of making the service musically enriching, the music leader often misses out on remembering that the service is to Him that Makes it all Possible. I'm thinking I'm not alone in this experience: be ye organist, deacon, committee member, church leader, or congregant, we all know it's so easy to get wrapped up in those details! As we head into Lent, may we all take time to welcome Jesus into the details, rather than being distracted by them!

CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR MARCH

Wednesday, 3/4: NO REHEARSAL due to the High School Musical!

Wednesday, 3/11: 7:00 NO REHEARSAL

Wednesday, 3/18: 7:00 Rehearsal

Sunday, 3/22: ANTHEM SUNDAY 9:00 AM rehearsal (this is a change, choir!)

Wednesday, 3/25: 7:00 Rehearsal

Sunday, 4/5: ANTHEM SUNDAY, 9:00 AM Rehearsal, Palm Sunday

Wednesday, 4/8: NO REHEARSAL

Sunday, 4/12: 9:00 AM Rehearsal with Liz Weber, Easter Sunday!

Wednesday, 4/15: 7:00 PM Rehearsal

Wednesday, 4/22 & 4/29: 7:00 PM Rehearsal

Trustees Report

The Trustees would like to thank all the committee members that completed their terms in 2019. Thank you to Jeanie Sloat, Pam Lynch, and Don Engle. And thank you to Tom Nesbitt who not only completed his term but signed up for another three years! We have new Trustees as well, Rich Hillabush Walker and Lee Blair. Welcome aboard. We are so glad to have you!

Our big news, we're "online". Internet and Wi-Fi service was installed at the church. We've made it into the new century. The password is **BYRONPC2020**

Church lawn cleanup is coming. The date will be Sunday, March 29. It's always a 50/50 proposition when it comes to the weather cooperating for clean-up in early Spring, so a rain or snow date will be announced if needed. Bring your rakes, clippers and a smile. Many hands make light work!

[Mark & Kim Dewey/Co-chairs/Trustees]

Neighborhood Gathering

Pastors and Sessions from the Presbyterian Churches in Genesee County will gather on Saturday, March 21, 10 AM - Noon, at the Batavia Presbyterian Church. A free lunch is included. The Presbytery has been organized into neighborhood clusters of churches. This is an opportunity for all of us to meet each other and to share ideas.

Per Capita

Per Capita envelopes for 2020 are included in each box of commitment envelopes. "Per Capita" is much like organizational "dues", each member's fair share of denominational operations. We encourage you to submit these Per Capita envelopes during the first quarter of the year if possible, but we are happy to receive them throughout the year. If you do not use commitment envelopes, you may contribute Per Capita in your plate offering on any Sunday, but please mark it "Per Capita". The amount for 2020 is \$34.68 per member.

A Time to Sew

We have launched the Sewing Group, established through the generosity of a grant from the Presbytery. This is providing community outreach and helping members of our community learn a dying art. We are very lucky to have such a talented member of our church willing to share her talents and time!

The sewing group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 6:30 PM. With the Presbytery grant we have purchased sewing machines and a variety of supplies. "Come on everybody; it's time to sew!"

Please note: due to the High School Musical, there will not be a sewing group on Tuesday, March 3rd.

Youth News

Pizza Party Night

Join us **Friday, March 20** from **6:30 – 9:00 pm** for pizza and ice cream sundaes at the church. We'll eat, pray, talk, and get to know one another! Please bring \$5 to contribute towards food costs. Invite a friend or two! Please let Shari know if you are coming so we can have enough pizza and ice cream for all!

Food Link Volunteer Day

The week of Spring Break we will head to Food Link again to volunteer in their warehouse. Food Link takes in food donations from major grocery store chains and other contributors to redistribute to those in need. We will serve on either Tues, Wed, or Thurs **April 7,8, or 9**. Shifts are from 2-5 pm so we will meet at the church **at 1:15 and return about 5:30**. We will go the date that works best for the most youth. So let Shari know what days work for you and we'll get signed up!

Presbytery Mission Day

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 AM until Noon, Batavia Presbyterian Church, for youth and adults, mission sites all around Genesee County at churches and agencies.

Youth in the Community

We have performers in Byron-Bergen school musical "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" March 5-7 at 7pm. And in Elba's school musical "The Lion King" March 27 (7pm) and March 28 (3 and 7pm). If you are able, come support our youth and their local school music programs!

Mission Opportunity!

The **Mission Committee** invites you to participate in an on-going project that will benefit people in our town and people in other parts of the world. We are going to create hundreds of **Personal Hygiene Kits**. They will be distributed locally at the North Bergen Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, as well as through Church World Service, particularly one of its current priority projects that involves recovery efforts in Puerto Rico after a hurricane and an earthquake. These hygiene kits are given to people who have suffered serious disasters from weather, earthquakes and war. The kits are part of a "front-line" effort to provide immediate assistance to people in great distress.

Here are the items that we invite you to contribute. These items will be used for each CWS hygiene kit. You can contribute one of each item, or any of the items in multiple quantities.

One **hand towel** measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)

One **washcloth**

One wide-tooth **comb**

One fingernail or toenail **clipper** (either one is acceptable)

One bath-size bar of **soap** in the original package

One **toothbrush** in the original package

Ten standard size **Band-Aids**

One-gallon-sized re-sealable **food bags**

Each kit will need a **\$2** processing fee, so monetary gifts will be very helpful, too.

For the North Bergen Food Pantry we can use a wider variety of items, in addition to the above:

Toothpaste

Deodorant

Small shampoo bottles

Toilet paper

Hand tissues

We will have a bin at the back of the sanctuary to receive these items.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing has been an essential project of the Presbyterian Church (USA) since the 1940's. During the weeks leading up to Easter we invite you to participate.

Funds raised through One Great Hour of Sharing are used to support disaster relief projects through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, to support the agricultural development projects through the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, and to support self-reliance through the **Self-Development of People** program. Projects that receive funding are both domestic and international.

We involve our church members in One Great Hour of Sharing by distributing OGHS Special Offering Envelopes and Fish Banks for children (and anyone else!).

Beginning March 8, our Sunday School children will be learning about OGHS and also preparing presentations to the congregation about the need for food, shelter and medical care all around the world.

Please return your OGH offerings by Easter Sunday.

Christian Education and Worship Committee

Snow is on the ground but spring is coming! Review, renew, and grow seem to be our themes. The Session and our pastor Jim Renfrew will be leading us through a new program which you will read about elsewhere in this newsletter, that will allow us to look at where we are and help us map a course to where we would like to be.

The Lenten season starts this month. There will be Lenten devotional booklets available for free to anyone that would like one. They will be in the back of the sanctuary starting this Sunday. Please help yourself!

Opportunities available.....

#1 Sunday School Our Sunday School, continues to be active. There will be many lessons and colorful crafts coming out of Sunday School room this season! If you would like to be a part of the fun, please consider signing up to be an aide in the room one Sunday. Sign up sheet is located in the back of the sanctuary. Our Child Safety Policy requires two adults in the room during SS time. You would be helping us fulfill our policy and have a wonderful experience in the process! I guarantee you will enjoy it.

#2 Music Our choir continues under direction Laurence Tallman. We meet Wednesday evenings for practice and sing throughout the worship year. If you have even a smidgeon of interest and would like to join in the fun, please come on a Wednesday evening and dip your toe in the water!

#3 The Vital Congregations Initiative This is the new program mentioned above and elsewhere in the newsletter. We are offering several events that will give people a chance to have voice concerns, opinions, ideas. There will be a chance to participate through Bible Study, family craft sessions, group discussions after the service, during the service, and so on...

#4 Sewing Class for anyone interested, whether you live, attend church here or not, to join with other folks to learn to sew, or to improve your skills at sewing, or just sew with the group for fellowship! Dates are listed on the Calendar pages.

#5 Newest opportunity - Yoga! We started yoga for beginners a few weeks ago. While the class will wind up the second Monday in March, we may have this opportunity again later on. Please join in for the last session we would love to see you!

#6 Last but not least, and most important ----Sunday worship at 9:45 AM led by pastor Jim Renfrew. Please join us for worship. As congregation member once remarked, coming to church "fluffs me up" for another week. It can be a moment to share, to reflect, to learn, to connect. There will be devotionals and holy week will have several special and we think very meaningful services.

We don't want you to miss a thing, so a list of events is included and will be mailed out to the congregation. Please join us. You are welcome at our house any time!

Christian Education & Worship Committee