

Highland Highlights

First Congregational Church, UCC
309 Highland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850,
607.257.6033, office@fccithaca.org, www.fccithaca.org
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9-4pm
First Congregational Church, UCC

March 7, 2018

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK	
Wednesday, March 7	
6:00 p.m.	Lenten Supper & Program
Thursday, March 8	
3:00 p.m.	Kendal Service
6:00 p.m.	Handbells
7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 11 – Daylight Savings begins	
9:00 a.m.	Children & Youth Committee Women's Ministries
10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:20 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship Committee Meetings
Monday, March 12	
10:30 a.m.	Women's Study
Tuesday, March 13	
4:00 p.m.	Women's Tea
5:15 p.m.	Growth & Membership Committee
7:30 p.m.	Yarn Group

Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday!
Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

UPCOMING

Children's Ministries - This week in Children's Worship we will hear a few stories of the days when Jesus was in Jerusalem with his disciples during his last days. We will explore why Mary anointed Jesus and why Jesus washed his disciples feet. Our follow-up activity will be making a foot scrub that the children can take home.

Tweens – This week we will be discussing and planning our lock-in and, if we have time, reading through a draft of the skit we may do for Celebration Sunday.

Youth Ministries - We will remain in worship to listen to David's sermons on The Lord's Prayer for the next 2 weeks. We will then meet in the Youth Room to work on our stained glass project.

Choir welcomes all – We warmly welcome singers, both old and new. Please consider joining! Come to rehearsal any **Thursday evening from 7:15-8:45pm**. For information contact Bill at 257-2539 or wwc7@cornell.edu.

Signups for classroom volunteers and acolytes: <http://tinyurl.com/fallsignups-2017>

Easter Lilies - If you would like to provide an Easter lily plant for the Easter service on April 1, please indicate so signup sheet in the Narthex. You may select "in memory of" or "in honor of." Suggested donation is \$10-\$20.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Lent Program - Join us on **Wednesday evenings during Lent (March 7, 14, and 21) from 6-7:30pm** for soup, salad, bread, fellowship, and a book study. **This Wednesday we will look at the Chapters 14-20** of the Peter Rollins' book *The Orthodox Heretic: And Other Impossible Tales* (Paraclete Press). Rollins is a widely sought after writer, lecturer, storyteller, theologian, and philosopher, who blends historic theology, psychoanalytic theory, literary criticism, parables, film summaries, and provocative insights in his many books. He is the founder of Ikon, a Belfast, Northern Ireland faith group that has gained an international reputation for blending music, visual imagery, theater, ritual, and reflection. *The Orthodox Heretic* is a collection of thirty-three short stories, each with a short, spiritual commentary. Each one takes about ten minutes to read, and then much longer to ponder! We will begin our evening program each week with a meal, and conclude with a discussion of Rollins' book. Each discussion will focus on about seven chapters. Please sign up in the Narthex, so we have a sense of how many folks will be joining us for the meal.

Palm Sunday Brunch – March 25th at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

A terrific FCC tradition. Great brunch provided by our Youth Group as a fundraiser for the Youth work trips. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee. \$5 adults, \$3 children (5-10), \$20 max.

Children's Egg Hunt- Children through age third grade, please join us after brunch on Palm Sunday for an Easter Egg Hunt. We will be finding eggs hidden around our church and everyone will get a goodie bag at the end for all of your hard work searching! We will gather for instructions in fellowship hall near the end of the brunch time.

Maundy Thursday – March 29th, Service at 7:00 p.m.

Service in the sanctuary commemorating the Last Supper.

Good Friday – March 30th, Service at 5:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 1st

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise service

10:00 a.m. – Worship & Sunday School

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

The Guide To Being Local Books are HERE - This guide is full of local business coupons valid for the entire 2018 calendar year. Outreach will be selling the books after the service. Buying your books from Outreach saves you money and *doubles* your impact. For \$15 dollars you save money at local businesses, support the local economy AND all proceeds from these books will be donated to Feed My Starving Children for this year's Mobile Pack. What more could you ask for? Saving money, supporting your friend's and neighbor's businesses and feeding children around the globe.

The Kitchen Cupboard - Don't forget regular contributions of non-perishable food items for our community food pantry. Some specific needs are **baby formula, boxed or canned dinners and vegetables, tuna fish and soups**. Please check all expiration dates.

Looking to get in touch with Outreach? Drop us an email at firstccoutreach@gmail.com.

PLANNING AHEAD – PLEASE COME – SIGN UP OR HELP OUT

Women's Study Group – Mondays at 10:30am in the church library. Come join us for our book or stop in any Monday. We will continue reading in our current book, *Reinventing the Body, Resurrecting the Soul* by Deepak Chopra.

Men's Breakfast & Discussion - We will meet **next Tuesday at 8:30am at the Royal Court Restaurant** on Meadow St. across from Tops & Wegmans. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month.

Women and Girls' Tea Party! Next Tuesday from 4-7pm, sponsored by Women's Ministries at Nancy Stewart's home, 509 Coddington Road, Ithaca. All women and girls of FCC are cordially invited to join us for all or part of this event. Various teas and snacks will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring an object to share which reminds them of a joyous moment in their childhood which gave them positive energy and happy memories. Sign up in narthex. Transportation available. (*Nancy's house is about 3/4 mile past the back entrance of Ithaca College coming from town, on the left, between Rich and Troy Roads. Coming from East Hill on Burns Road, the house is on the right 1.2 miles after turning onto Coddington. Brown house with red doors.*)

Yarn Group – We will meet **next Tuesday at 7:30pm** at the home of Cathy Dawson, 256 Renwick Dr., Ithaca. We would love to have new people, including beginners, and we'd be happy to get you started. We work on many projects, but prayer shawls and baby blankets are given to the Caring Committee to distribute to church members in need. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Contact Karen Knudson for more information, foxlair2@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch – We will meet again **March 18th at 12:30pm at the Ramada Inn** on Triphammer Rd. Lunch Bunch meets every 3rd Sunday. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Action FCC - We met to discuss social justice initiatives for the church to consider. There are many issues that FCCI could address, so one of our challenges is narrowing our focus. We are currently looking at issues of immigration (becoming a sanctuary church), homelessness in Ithaca (joining with other congregations to create a Room at the Inn homeless housing program during the winter months), sustainability (creating a community garden and developing a composting program to reduce waste at church events), and racial justice (partnering with other churches or organizations to learn more about and address racial injustice and misunderstanding in Ithaca). We will make recommendations to the Outreach Committee and then to Church Council about these ideas. Feel free to share any of your own thoughts with members of Action FCC or with David. And please keep us in your prayers!

Brown Bag Bible Study – We read and interpret the week's lectionary texts as a group; we pray and we laugh together. Absolutely no prior knowledge of the Bible is required! Bring your lunch and we'll provide the Bibles. All are welcome! ***We will not meet during Lent.***

Winter Weather Care - We ask you to care for yourself and safety first, but also to help care for our building. During extreme weather, the parking lot may become icy, so please watch your step and let's help each other safely to cars. Additional salting prevents ice, however it also sticks to our shoes and then on the carpets. Please consider bringing indoor shoes or slippers. You can change in the lower entry. We will also provide some disposable booties on a trial basis! Thank you, Building & Grounds Committee.

FCC History shorts by Barbara Taylor – The first church was built in less than a month, paid for by the sale of the pews. The purchase agreement for the pews ended in 1855 and a rental scheme was continued until 1913. During the forty years of the Dutch Reformed Church, there were 8 pastors. The first pastor, Alexander Mason, increased membership from 31 to 146.

REMINDERS

Sunday readers, ushers, greeters, and flower providers are needed. Please sign up in the narthex.

Visitors, thank you for being here! Please complete a Pew Card and place it in the offering plate.

Prayers - There are prayer request cards on the nametag table. If you have a prayer request, fill out the card and place it in the basket provided.

If you or someone from our church family are going into the hospital, please let the office know. David and Sue will visit you, and pray with you.

The sermons are online - Go to "Worship" on the church website: fccithaca.org. Text copies of the sermons are also available in the Narthex.

Pocket Prayer Shawls – Pocket Prayer Shawls are available in a basket just inside the Library door. They are free for taking and are used to hold and feel when praying, especially for healing.

Our Prayer Care Tree – Is a network of people committed to privately petition God on behalf of concerns lifted in our church community. To learn more about our Prayer Care Tree please pick up a brochure in the church Narthex. If you wish to join this prayer network to pray for those who request prayers, submit your name and e-mail address to the church office.