

# Highland Highlights

*First Congregational Church, UCC*  
309 Highland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850,  
607.257.6033, [office@fccithaca.org](mailto:office@fccithaca.org), [www.fccithaca.org](http://www.fccithaca.org)  
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9-4pm  
*First Congregational Church, UCC*  
**March 14, 2018**

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK	
<b>Wednesday, March 14</b>	
6:00 p.m.	Lenten Supper & Program - <i>Cancelled</i>
<b>Thursday, March 15</b>	
6:00 p.m.	Handbells
7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, March 18</b>	
10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:20 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
12:30 p.m.	Lunch Bunch
<b>Monday, March 19</b>	
10:30 a.m.	Women's Study
<b>Tuesday, March 20</b>	
6:00 p.m.	Church Council – <i>New time</i>

## UPCOMING

**Children's Ministries** – This week Rebecca Holland will be leading Children's Worship while Stacy is away for her daughter's dance competition. We will hear the story of the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples and do a related activity.

**Tweens** – This Saturday is our lock-in.

**Youth Ministries** - We will remain in worship to listen to David's sermon on The Lord's Prayer. We will then meet in the Youth Room to finish up our stained glass project.

**Signups for classroom volunteers and acolytes:** [tinyurl.com/fallsignups-2017](http://tinyurl.com/fallsignups-2017)

**Lunch Bunch** – We will meet **this Sunday at 12:30pm at the Ramada Inn** on Triphammer Rd. Lunch Bunch meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Please sign up in the Narthex.

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

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

**Lent Program** – *Is cancelled for March 14 due to weather conditions.* Please join us next **Wednesday evenings, March 21 from 6-7:30pm** for soup, salad, bread, fellowship, and a book study. We will

finish reading and discussing 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.

***Please note: The Palm Sunday Brunch has been postponed until June 3 at 11:30 a.m.***

**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 29<sup>th</sup>, Service at 7:00 p.m.**  
Service in the sanctuary commemorating the Last Supper.

**Good Friday – March 30<sup>th</sup>, Service at 5:15 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday – April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
6:30 a.m. – Sunrise service  
10:00 a.m. – Worship & Sunday School

### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE – OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES**

**March Special Outreach Offering - Church World Service** stocks disaster clean up, school and hygiene kits to send to disaster areas around the world. When hurricanes devastated the United States and many of our Caribbean neighbors in the fall of 2017, kits were a vital part of the CWS response. 127,256 CWS hygiene kits were shipped to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and Cuba to meet immediate needs in shelters and in affected communities. Families in Texas and Florida were met with 1,788 clean up buckets to help clean up and start on the road back to normal life. This month Outreach is working with the middle school youth and you, the congregation to gather and assemble supplies to replenish disaster clean up buckets and hygiene kits. In addition to sending supplies our March special offering will go to fund shipping costs as well as helping CWS purchase more supplies. Please use the offering envelopes in the pew backs or make checks payable to FCC marked for the CWS Kits.

**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](mailto: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.

**NEW DATE - Women and Girls' Tea Party!** Has been rescheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm, sponsored by Women's Ministries at Nancy Stewart's home, 509 Coddington Road, Ithaca. All women and girls of FCC are 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 IC 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** – Will meet again Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. 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](mailto:foxlair2@gmail.com).

**Easter Lunch Bunch** – April 1 - Anyone who would like to share Easter with church friends please join us for a special Easter brunch at the **Ramada Inn at 12:30pm**. Reservations are required so please sign up in the Narthex by **March 25**.

**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.**

**Men's Breakfast & Discussion** - We will meet again April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am at the **Royal Court Restaurant** on Meadow St. across from Tops & Wegmans. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday morning of each month.

**Dish-to-Pass** - Following the service on April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a meal together. Please bring your dish to the kitchen before or following the service if you can, and break bread with your church family.

**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](http://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.