

**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
**PO Box 827 Lebanon Springs, NY 12125**

**GIDEON'S TRUMPET MARCH 2024 VOLUME 16 #1**

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**Church Calendar:**

Dates to Remember

3/24/24 Palm Sunday: Blessing of Palms and Easter Eggs 8:30 am

3/28/24 Maundy Thursday: 6pm Stripping of Altar

3/29/24 Good Friday: noon Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament

3/31/24 Easter: 8:30 am

5/9/24 Ascension Day: We will celebrate on Sunday 5/12: 8:30

5/19/24 Pentecost: 8:30 am

Deanery News: Deanery met on 3/17/24 at 3pm at Saint Paul's church in Kinderhook. Bishop Williamson joined us and expressed his joy at being here in the Albany Diocese. He is looking forward to continuing to meet us and seeing all that each parish is doing.

Elections were held: President: Rev. Frank Lockwood, Vice President: Rebecca Alamillo, St. Luke's Chatham, Secretary: Winslow Marsters, Saint Luke's Catskill, Treasurer Mary Young Lay Rep. to Diocesan Council: David Palmquist Christ Church Hudson

Next Deanery meeting: Sunday 6/23/ 24 3pm, Church of Our Saviour Barbeque

The Deanery made a commitment and is asking the whole Deanery to devote one hour in prayer each Friday to seeking humility and to listen for the Holy Spirits prompting about how to make that a concrete reality among us. In your time of prayer and listening if you hear any word or suggestion, please send Dean Tom an e-mail. He will build up a file that can be reviewed later to discern what further action the Lord may be calling us to pursue.

Vestry News: The vestry met 3/20/24 at 6pm. The vestry discussed the problem with the sewage system at the rectory. The septic system has been pumped and the line into the rectory unplugged at the septic tank line. We are working on getting bids for further work in the rectory and by the septic tank. Richard will be meeting with the tax assessor to determine the assessment of the church and rectory. We will be going out for bids for the fuel oil for the heating season 2024-2025.

Both Eugenia and Ed Wever are at home, call them before going to visit.

The Library will be having their book sale in the Hall on 5/17-5/19. You can start bringing books to the hall on Wednesdays from 1-4pm starting 4/3 and Saturday from 9-12 starting 3/30. We continue to find more ways to spread the Word of the Lord. We will soon be on You-Tube, so we will have many ways to spread the Word.

If you are free the third Saturday of the month you are invited to come and have coffee and meet the townspeople at 9am.

Father will be away 6/9 and 6/16, Mary will do Morning Prayer at 8:30.

## **Programs:**

**Charlies Pantry:** Our members give nonperishable food items and household supplies as well as support the fuel fund. A food basket for donations is located in the back of the sanctuary. Eugenia delivers the food twice a month to Charlie's Pantry for distribution. This Pantry is open to the community in need on Saturdays.

## **From the Senior Warden**

As I write this on March 21, the second full day of spring, the ground is covered in white from a short burst of snow last evening. I had to scrape the frozen snow off my windshield after vestry yesterday before I could navigate the quarter mile to my home. Winter is chuckling as it backs into the door with, "Oh, just one more thing!" We acknowledge its folly and move on to await more buds and blooms as the days lengthen and the temperatures warm. Something wonderful to look forward to.

Lent gives us something to look forward to; the Resurrection of our Lord. Spring comes with rebirth of the land and with a rebirth of us as Christians. We look past the last gasp of winter's snows and look to the light and growth around us. We look to our hearts and to our Lord to bring us to life everlasting.

Tony and I wish you many blessings during this Lent and future Eastertide.

## **From the Treasurer**

I want to thank everyone who donated for our Easter Flowers. It is a wonderful way to remember those who are absent from our lives...but not from our thoughts.

The Church is hanging in there. Attendance is a problem...but I think our Church needs to be proud of all that we have accomplished. I cannot think of a more generous group of people. Just in the last few months we purchased 6 Backpacks for needy families through the Food Bank- We provided Christmas gifts for the local community- We supported a Mission in Albany...as well as Charlie's Pantry...and The Youth Program sponsored by the Diocese.

During our last Vestry Meeting we decided to recommit to Local Outreach. Certainly the May Book Sale is a first step...not only we will help the New Lebanon Library raise some money- we are also hosting the New Lebanon Seniors' Bake Sale...and just for fun having a Mahjong Tournament. We also decided to increase our participation in Community Affairs- We hope we can provide a practice & performance space for the High School Chorales. We continue to have a coffee hour once a month @ Maverick's.

Our Church is so much more than one Service a week...By offering our facilities and our participation for community events...we are reaching out and welcoming our community

**From Father Frank Lockwood:**

Lenten Greetings to you all.

Easter has always been a special time for me. I was born on an Easter Sunday morning, so no teddy bears growing up. Instead, it was bunnies as my stuffed animals. My father's side of the family were originally Anglican. My mother grew up Roman Catholic. On my mom's side, there was no more important Holiday than Easter.

I announced a while back about the tradition that my grandfather had handed down to me regarding the sharing of a blessed egg on Easter Sunday morning prior to going to church. My grandfather was first generation Polish American. His parents, my great grandparents, fled Poland right around the stirrings of WW I, emigrating to the US. They were traditional in their beliefs having been members, I believe, of the Polish Catholic Church, though celebrating here as Roman Catholics.

Two traditions that I was introduced to were a particular wafer that was blessed and then shared with the household on Christmas Day and the blessing of one egg to be shared amongst the household on Easter morning. The Easter tradition included hand grinding the horseradish on Palm Sunday and prepping it for Easter. The horseradish included the adding pickled beets and storing it upside down in the jar without opening it until Easter.

The full tradition in Poland of the Easter blessing is for a basket to be brought up to the priest during Holy Saturday services. The basket would contain the decorated egg(s), some meat, salt, pepper and other items (such as the horseradish) to be blessed by the priest. As the family gathered before going to church on Easter morning, the egg would be divided amongst all that were gathered, a toast said and the egg consumed (ideally with a bit of the freshly made red colored horseradish—a reminder of the bitterness Jesus endured for our sake). Various liquids might accompany the egg.

In Poland, they had a separate wafer for Easter, *oplatek*, just like at Christmas. My family resorted to the blessed egg to fulfill the role as the wafer was more difficult to find at Easter than at Christmas.

I invite you all to join me in this tradition if you choose. Since we don't typically gather on Holy Saturday, I invite any who would like to bring in a hard boiled decorated egg to be blessed (and if you like other pieces of the meal with it in a basket) on Palm Sunday. You would then bring home the items and come Easter, when gathered with you family, prior to engaging in the main meal, to divide up that egg amongst whomever is gathered in the house at the time and offer up a toast/blessing/prayer at that time.

Many blessings to you all,

Fr Frank

## EASTER FLOWERS

In Memory of: James Maxfield , Clinton & Ginny Dugger  
Clarence & Dora Maxfield, Clarence & Mildred Maxfield

Given by Mary Young & family

In Memory of Elmer & Corinne Sheffer, Barbara Hubbard  
Jean Swinyer

Given by Anthony & Elizabeth Winig

In Memory of Florence & Wally Stock

Given by Nancy Stock

In Memory of Bruce Mayer & Adolf Mayer

Given by Rich Mayer & Richard Dauchy

In Memory of Edward Curtin

Given by Jill Curtin & Family