

MARCH 2022 Hamburg Presbyterian Church

The TOWEL AND BASIN

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Mission: To be a spiritually passionate congregation that lives out Christ's teachings;
through love-filled relationship building, we prayerfully seek to share our lives and resources with the community and the world





Nowhere does it say in the Bible that Christians are to spend 40 days praying and fasting in the lead-up to Good Friday and Easter. Nor does it speak of an “Ash Wednesday” or “Holy Week”.

So why do so many churches mark the Lenten period, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends in the Holy Week? And why think about this, when we are struggling with many other challenges—such as the COVID-19 outbreak—now? In case you’re wondering, Lent is a season celebrated by many of the more traditional or liturgical churches. During this season, believers prepare for Good Friday by putting a greater emphasis on repentance and self-denial as they reflect on Christ’s death and resurrection. Typically, it involves fasting or giving up some luxuries, and a greater note of solemnity in church services and events. All this is to remind Christians of their sin that put Christ on the cross. This grief is marked by the “ash” of Ash Wednesday, evoking memories of Jesus’ period of fasting in the desert (Matthew 4:2). Some churches also mark Maundy Thursday, which commemorates Jesus’ last supper with His disciples. All these days, which have been practiced by Christians over hundreds of years, are meant to encourage believers to spend time thinking about our sinful state and how only Christ can save us from the grip of sin and reconcile us with the holy God (Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13-14).

Lent is obviously not compulsory. But that doesn’t mean it’s not a good thing. 1 Corinthians 10:23 notes that “All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful.” But the opposite can also be true: not all things are mandatory, but they can be helpful. With many churches and Christian organizations rolling out printed and online resources or holding special services to help people observe Lent—not to mention, temporarily stopping mass gatherings and other meetings—why not take the opportunity to spend some time reflecting on the meaning of the cross?

Perhaps we can start with these simple things each day:

Pray: Thank our Heavenly Father for sending His Son to die on the cross for our sins.

Repent: Think about what we’ve done wrong and our struggle with temptation, and how we can only overcome these weaknesses with the Holy Spirit’s help.

Reflect: Read the Gospel accounts of the days leading to Jesus’ death on the cross, His resurrection, and how they can transform the way we live and love others.

Fast: Abstaining from food (if it is safe) or something we like (for example, an indulgence or luxury) can help us focus on what Jesus gave up for our sake. —Leslie Koh

*Jesus, thank You for dying for my sin
so that I can be forgiven and reconciled to the Father.
I want to spend the next few weeks
reflecting on what You did for me,
please help me honor this commitment to You.*

<https://ourdailybread.org/spotlight-why-celebrate-lent-when-its-just-a-tradition/>



From the Presbytery of Western New York Anti-Racism Task Group

Seeking to be an Anti-Racist: Living the Love of Jesus

So, what can I do?

To be anti-racist is to be an authentic part of the community of God, where everyone is recognized as carrying God's image. But, what can we do to help build this community?

First, we need to be aware of our prejudices, biases, and stereotypes. Do we make assumptions about those who are different than us? Do we expect certain behavior from someone because of how they look? We need to examine our assumptions. How stereotyped are they?

Second, learn about the effects of racism in our society. White people might like to assume that there has been so much change since the 60's that the average white person just doesn't need to concern themselves with racism. If that is your belief, you are encouraged to do some reading to understand the reality of racism in today's society and the damage it is doing. So *You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo or *The Sum of Us: what racism costs everyone and how we can prosper together* by Heather McGhee are places to start.

Third, we all need to examine our privilege. Yes, we may be tired of hearing about privilege, but it is real. There are articles about White Privilege in the archived Presbytery newsletters. Or google: White Privilege: unpacking the invisible knapsack by Peggy MacIntosh.

Fourth, take some time to learn the stories of those who have not been included in most American History classes. For example, watch the PBS program "Slavery by Another Name" to learn some of the realities of Jim Crow or "Reconstruction." Learn the story of the Underground Railroad in our area at the museum in Niagara Falls or visit the Onöhsagwë:de' Cultural Center in Salamanca to learn about the Seneca people of Western New York who have two churches in our Presbytery.

This task group is made up of local Presbyterians who are seeking to grow in understanding of the issue of racism in our communities and churches. We seek to learn about the issues, listen to voices that need to be heard, and explore ways that we and others might respond to, and actively engage in the work of anti-racism. For more information contact Cynthia Wickwire Lundquist at csl12wickwire@gmail.com or

Cathy Rieley-Goddard at cathriego@gmail.com.

MINUTES OF SESSION JANUARY 10, 2022

The Rev. Rachel Brown, Moderator, called the meeting to order with prayer at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

The agenda was approved as written.

Elders in attendance were: Hollis Bahruth, Jerry Stitt, Wayne Hines, Tony Cimorelli, Don Robinson, Anna Robinson, Kris McGuire, Gary Lauchart, Rachel Brown, Trisha Harrigan, Sandy Smith, and Blair Webster.

Guests: James Sampson and Karen Klug

Devotion was provided by Kris McGuire

MOTION to approve the minutes of December 12, 2020 was presented and approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT: A new members class was held on January 9, 2022 Karen Klug and James Sampson are interested in joining the church and joined our meeting this evening to express their interest in joining and to provide some background on themselves. All Session members spoke and introduced themselves to both new member candidates as well.

MOTION to accept as new Members to Hamburg Presbyterian Church of Jim Sampson by affirmation of faith and Karen Klug by letter of transfer. Motion passed unanimously. Rachel added a prayer for both. Jim and Karen were excused from the meeting Pastor Rachel Brown turned the meeting over to Wayne Hines and Gary Lauchert who introduced us to the idea of a Pastor Sabbatical leave for Pastor Rachel Brown.

Gary reported that Rachel has qualified for a sabbatical. A committee has been formed to explore the program and apply for a grant to fund expenses. The grant application is to be worked on and is expected to be due in April 2022. A potential timeline for the effort could be to inform the congregation of the effort in March, submit the grant application in April and anticipate an answer on the application in August of 2022.

A **MOTION** was made that support the philosophical idea of a sabbatical for Pastor Rachel and to start the application process for the Lily grant. Motion passed unanimously. Rachel also mentioned she will not be in Worship on February 20, 2022.

CLERK'S REPORT: Tony informed Session that work on the 2022 Statistical report for Presbytery has begun.

DEACON'S REPORT: Anna Robinson which include numerous caregiving activities, card writing, visitations and Worship transportation efforts for Sally and Hal.

COMM. TO PRESBYTERY: The next Presbytery meeting will be on January 25, 2022. Jeff Leyonmark volunteered to be our representative.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Blair Webster provided the Treasurer's Report. He mentioned the bottom line is that at the end of the year, we had \$173,915 in the bank, an increase of over \$14,000 from last year. This is quite remarkable, considering we planned to spend about \$70,000 more than we took in in 2021. Some of the reasons we put money in the bank this year, rather than draw down our resources:

- A one-time gift of \$50,000 from a member
- Our staff costs were over \$21,000 below our 2021 plan

- The unbudgeted-for rental income from the United Church of God was received in 2021. (\$200 a week x 50 weeks or \$10,000)

Also, going forward, this report will now show the designated funds we have and which committees have them.

NO MINISTRY TEAMS REQUIRING ACTION: There were no Ministry Teams requiring action from Session.

A **MOTION** was made for HPC approves the use of fellowship hall monthly through 2022 for Presbyterian Women and they will not interfere with Nursery School activities. Motion passed. Unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Session reviewed the HPC Moderated Building Use Document as it pertains to seating. Jeff Leyonmark will review the existing document and return comments to Session as to current practices and procedures. If a document change has to be made he will propose. Jeff will also discuss with the Sexton.

NEW BUSINESS: Session members were asked to complete the Church specific sexual harassment training program circulated to all in email on January 6, 2022. The February Open discussion took place.

The **Sacrament of Holy Communion** was celebrated during the Worship services on December 5, 2021, December 24, 2021 and on January 2, 2022.

The next **Sacrament of Holy Communion** will be celebrated on February 6, 2022 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

The next Session Meeting is February 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Joys & Concerns were lifted and Pastor Rachel closed the meeting at 7:56 p.m. with prayer.

MOTION to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:



Tony Cimorelli
Clerk of Session



Christian Education

Review

5 teens grades 8th-10th are participating in this year's Confirmation Class. This class meets twice monthly after church. We have been learning all about the Bible and how to read it critically. We have also been learning about Presbyterianism.

Upcoming

Confirmation Class (January-April 2022)

Students grades 8th-12th will take part in this class with an opportunity to become members of the congregation.

Adult Education (Wednesday Nights on Zoom, 7:15pm-8:00pm)

This month we will be wrapping up our study of *What Is The Bible?* by Rob Bell.

4 Week Lenten Adult Bible Study focusing on Social Justice, specifically Anti-Racism and the work of the Presbytery of WNY.

Weds. March 16, 23, 30 & April 6,

2022 from 7: 15 - 8: 15 p.m. ZOOM

What is the HOPE of looking into the Anti-Racism work of the Presbytery of WNY at the HPC Adult Bible Study?

It is my hope that we look at the launching point for the Presbytery of WNY plight and prayer for Social Justice and how the Presbytery responded to injustice by focusing on Anti-Racism. God Bless,

~Pastor Rachel



Children's Church

All children are welcome to join us during worship (10:15) for Children's Church. Please see the schedule below. If you are not able to join us in person you can check out the Worship Service, as well as the Children's Sermon, each week on Facebook Live and the Hamburg Presbyterian YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcZVuwF9DN62b-WK-iXq5Ug>

CE Ministry Schedule

03/06 Confirmation Class (11:00-12:30)

03/06 No Children's Church-
Communion Sunday

03/13 Children's Church (10:15 am)

03/20 Children's Church (10:15 am)

03/20 Confirmation Class (11:00-12:30)

03/27 Children's Church (10:15 am)



CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

Tuesdays

Bell Choir 5:30pm

Choir 6:30pm



Al Anon

Mondays - Zoom 7:30pm

Wednesdays- FH 7:30pm

Fridays- FH 10:00pm

We would like extend a warm welcome to every woman to join our monthly Circle meetings for Bible Study and Fellowship.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Hannah Circle Wed. March 9th 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Marci Toney , Gail Wheaton's home.

Elizabeth Circle Thurs. March 10th 10:30 a.m.

Leader: Janie S. , Janie Smith's Home

Ruth Circle Wed. March 16th 12:30pm

Leader: Ginny Sprague, Fellowship Hall

Mission Quilters

Wednesdays, March 2nd and 16th
at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

PW Coordinating Team

will meet Tuesday,
March 1st at 12:30
in the Chapel



MARCH



Pat Smith	March 2	Laurie Smith	March 14
Alan Hall	March 5	Ken Walker	March 21
Weston Ferro	March 6	Donald Robinson	March 27
Leanne Howe	March 7	Louise Zittel	March 28
Gail Wheaton	March 7		
Kathryn Griffin	March 9		
Sue Ganey	March 10		
Yvonne Michaels	March 14		
Dick Reynolds	March 14		



Sandwich Sunday is March 20th

Please bring individually wrapped sandwiches to church Sunday morning and put them in the coolers in the coat room. Or, bring them to the Hollenbeck's front porch at 480 Pleasant Ave anytime Saturday or Sunday morning until noon. They will be delivered to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy in Buffalo.



The Mission Team is collecting warm socks to be distributed to Friends of the Night and St. Luke's. Donations will be collected in a basket in the lobby.



If you think it's still winter, then it's time to think Springtime in the Country!

This artisan show is happening March 25th through 27th at our Hamburg Fairgrounds. Our friendly faces are again needed to manage the doors. There will soon be a sign up sheet in the lobby, or you can call me (992-3479), text (868-6153) or email (dtchmn@verizon.net).

Thank you so much for making this happen!
Janie Smith



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Pat Baltes, Lisa Fehr, Vicki and Kendra's family friends, Wendy Z's friend Ro, Dick Reynolds, Joyce's Friend's son, Scott and his family,



New Members
James Sampson and
Karen Klug

Non-perishable food items are needed for the Blessing Box located on Main St. lawn. Canned soups/stews/pasta, peanut butter and packaged dry goods are great items to share. Please note, no expired/close to expiration date items can be accepted. Thank you!



Blessing Tree

HPC now has a blessing tree to go along with our Blessing Box .

If you would like to help donate , please put winter hats, gloves or scarves in Ziplock bags and clothespin them to the tree out front.
Need It = Take It
Want to Help = Add it



Gracious God,
 you are our way in the wilderness.
 In our own times of testing be our spiritual
 nourishment, protect us with your angels,
 and show your authority in our lives,
 so that we may hunger for righteousness
 and live in peace and safety, worshipping
 and serving you alone; through Christ Jesus
 our Lord.

Luke 4:1-13



**March
 Volunteers**

Ushers	Liturgists
3/6- Leyonmark Family	3/6 - Shirley Hines
3/13- Rich Family	3/13- Christel Beers
3/20- Leyonmark Family	3/20- Sue Almond
3/27- Leyonmark Family	3/27- Linda Ryder

*I will give thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; I praise your
 name for your unfailing love and faithfulness; for your
 promises are backed by all the honor of your name.*

Psalms 138:1-2

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 HUNGER- DISASTER-DEVELOPMENT**

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) —Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People —all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Received during the season of Lent (**March 2 – April 17**), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. **Through our congregation - watch for envelopes**
2. **Text OGHS to 91999**
3. **pcusa.org/give-oghs**



You are in our prayers!



Please let Pastor Rachel know of your prayer needs by contacting her directly at (716) 777-4333. All prayer requests are confidential and may be made through church email or by phone as well.

Lent and Easter 2022



Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 6 at 12pm and 7pm

Worship Service & Communion

Sunday Worship Services 10am

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 10 at 10am

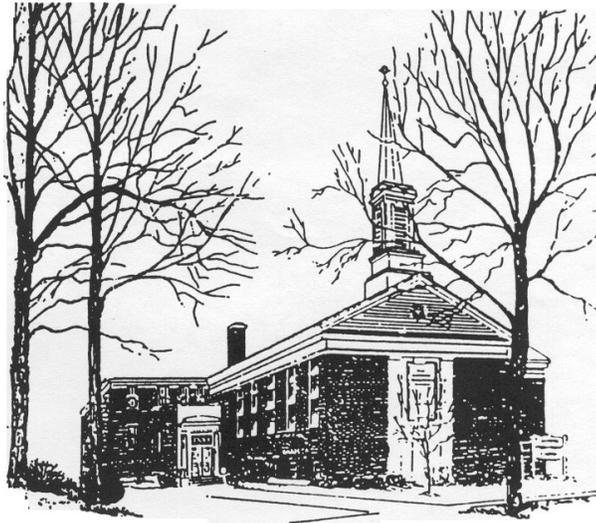
Worship Service, Communion & Palm Distribution

Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 7pm

Worship Service & Communion

Easter Sunday April 17 at 10am

Worship Service & Communion



HAMBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

177 Main St.
Hamburg, NY 14075

Pastor - Rev. Rachel Brown
Christian Education Director - Matt Brooks
Pastoral Care Assistant - Wendy Zimmerman

Treasurer - Blair Webster

Financial Secretary - Katie Gertner

Church Office - Kendra Quinn-Moultrie & Mary Prentice

Sexton - Dave Monaco

Office Phone - (716) 649-1970

E-mail - hamburgpres@gmail.com

Web Page - www.hamburgchurch.org

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/hamburgpresbychurch/>

Online Sermons - <https://clyp.it/u/rachelbrown333>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtZVuwF9DN62b-WK-iXq5Ug>



Sunday Worship & Christian Ed Schedule

10:00am Worship Service
in the Sanctuary and on Facebook
10:15am Children's
Church
(after Children's Sermon)

Worship Online with us!

Visit www.hamburgchurch.org and click on the Media tab to the drop down Bulletin tab. Select the bulletin of the week and access [Facebook Live](#)

Newsletter

Deadline

The deadline for the

April issue is

March 22, 2022



HPC OFFICE

Staff Listing

Pastor

Rev. Rachel Brown: 444-7333

Minister of Music

Alex Hamilton

Director of Christian Ed

Matt Brooks: 585-469-4882

Financial Secretary

Katie Gertner: 400-4892

Personal Assistant to the Pastor

Kendra Quinn-Moultrie

Church Office

Mary Prentice: 649-1970

Sexton

Dave Monaco: 931-5213

HPC OFFICE HOURS

(716-649-1970)

Monday 9am - 2pm

Tuesday 9am - 2pm

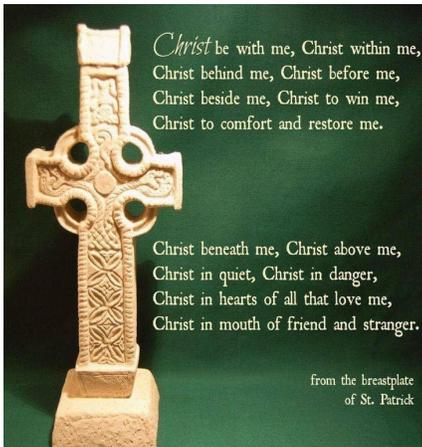
Wednesday 9am - 2pm

Thursday 9am-2pm

Friday Closed

In case of an emergency,

Rev. Rachel Brown may be reached
on her cell at 444-7333.



Christ be with me, *Christ* within me,
Christ behind me, *Christ* before me,
Christ beside me, *Christ* to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, *Christ* above me,
Christ in quiet, *Christ* in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from the breastplate
of St. Patrick





MARCH 2022

Hamburg



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:00am Worship Planning 12:30pm Presbyterian Coordinating team (FH)	2 Ash Wed. Services 12pm & 7pm 9:30am Quilters (FH) 7:30pm AA (FH)	3	4 10:00pm AA (FH)	5 9:00am United Church of God (FH)
		6 10:00am Worship Service & Communion Confirmation Class after Worship	7 1:00pm Financial Mgmt. (Z) 6:30pm Christian Ed. (Z) 7:00pm Personnel (Z) 7:30pm AlAnon (FH)	8 11:00am Worship Planning	9 10:00am Hannah Circle 7:15pm Adult Ed (Z) 7:30pm AA (FH)	10 10:30am Elizabeth Circle (Janie Smith's House)
 13 10:00am Worship Service & Children's Church	14 9:30am Caregivers 7:00pm Session (Z) 7:30pm AlAnon (FH)	15 11:00am Worship Planning & Staff 7:00pm Deacons (Z)	16 9:30am Quilters (FH) 12:30pm Ruth Circle (AL) 7:00pm Mission (Z) 7:15pm Adult Ed (Z) 7:30pm AA (FH)	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 	18 10:00pm AA (FH)	19 9:00am United Church of God (FH)
20 Sandwich Sunday 10:00am Worship Service & Children's Church Confirmation Class after Worship	21 12:30pm PW of WNY(FH) 7:00pm Worship and Music (Z) 7:30pm AlAnon (FH)	22 11:00am Worship Planning	23 7:15pm Adult Ed (Z) 7:30pm AA (FH)	24	25 10:00pm AA (FH)	26 9:00am United Church of God (FH)
27 10:00am Worship Service & Children's Church 	28 7:00pm Building and Grounds (Z) 7:30pm AlAnon (FH)	29 11:00am Worship Planning	30 7:15pm Adult Ed (Z) 7:30pm AA (FH)	31 		

SPRING TIME IN THE COUNTRY
25-27