



St. Peter's Press

April 2023

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church - Spencertown, NY

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Embracing Mystery and Joy

By Rev. Donna Elia

Peace and joy be with you, wonderful St.



Peter's friends!
As our Lenten Journey comes to a close, we embrace the blessings the journey has brought: A time to reflect; the mystery of growth; and our recommitment to love, peace, and justice. As a community at worship, we

have been acknowledging the land and its first peoples. This is another aspect of repentance and commitment.

Once again, we stand on the verge of proclaiming, "Christ is risen!" We have courage to look at brokenness and to do the work of healing. Thanks be to God!



I invite you to consider these challenging and empowering words from New Testament Scholar Tom Wright: *If it is really true that in going to his death he took it upon himself and*

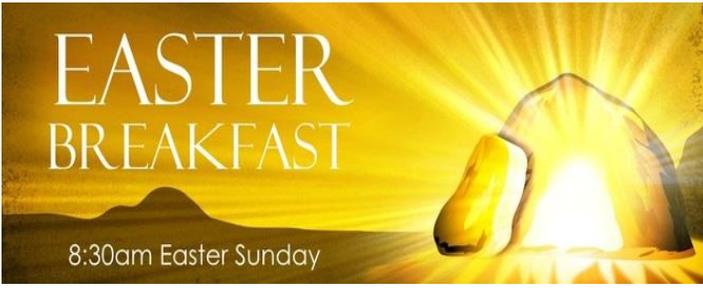
in some sense exhausted, the full weight of the world's evil, there clearly is a task waiting to be done.... When Jesus emerged from the tomb, justice, spirituality, relationship, and beauty rose with him. Something has happened in and through Jesus, as a result of which the world is a different place, a place where heaven and earth have been joined forever. God's future has arrived in the present. Instead of mere echoes, we hear the voice itself, a voice which speaks of rescue from evil and death, and hence of new creation.

The world longs for new creation. Our hope-filled work of being justice seekers in the world continues.

May the joy of resurrection faith be yours!



Rev. Donna Elia will be at St. Peter's in April on the 18th from 2 to 5. Feel free to come chat with her in person while she is here. You can also call her on her cell phone (518-495-6795) or on the church phone (518-392-3386).



Easter Breakfast from the Men's Group!

Come one, come all to church early **Easter morning** (April 9 at 8:30) for a delicious breakfast prepared and served on real plates by the St. Peter's Men's Group! The menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, OJ, Coffee, and Tea. Everything will be made from scratch (no boxed mixes); real, local maple syrup will accompany the pancakes. The price for the meal is pay what you will with a suggestion of \$10 per adult. It's going to be YUMMY! Let's get our Fellowship Hall buzzing on this glorious day!

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**Join Us for a Delicious Meal at St. Peter's Soul Café**  
By Marcy Coalter



Come, join us and be treated to a delicious dinner at our **Soul Café**, Tuesday April 18, 2023, from 5 to 7 PM at St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, 5219 County Route 7 in Spencertown, NY. We are thrilled to provide an opportunity for friends, new and old, to pay what you can (or not at all) as we participate in finding ways to offer delicious meals to those who are seeking community and/or experiencing food insecurity.

Rev. Donna Elia brought the idea for starting the Soul Café as a way of reaching out to the community and providing food to those who

need a helping hand. It is financed by a grant of \$1000 from the Clara Gott Fund. If all goes well, we hope to make this a recurring event.

One way we honor our guests and the greater community is by choosing to support our local farmers and the healthy and delicious bounty that is produced locally. We are grateful for the opportunity to include local beef from Roxbury Farm of Kinderhook, NY in our dinner, as well as delectable desserts donated by our church congregation.

**On the menu are:**

- Homemade beef lasagna (featuring Roxbury Farm beef)
- Homemade vegetarian and gluten-free lasagna
- Fresh tossed salad
- Homemade garlic bread
- Homemade desserts

We will create a special atmosphere with white tablecloths, cloth napkins, real dishes, and flowers. Sharing a meal is a beautiful way to bring folks together and build healthy communities. It is our hope that we can continue to grow this movement and continue to work toward finding ways to reduce the burdens of loneliness and food insecurity.

No reservations needed. Come as you are! Tell your friends! Pay what you can (or not at all).

We look forward to sharing an evening with you.

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EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV

Welcome to New Members, Scott and Vicky Jensen!



From left: Mary Anne Davis (Clerk of Session), Rev. Donna Elia, Vicky Jensen, and Scott Jensen

On March 12, Vicky and Scott Jensen, were welcomed as new members of St. Peter's. They were received into the membership by reaffirmation of faith, and had attended classes conducted by Rev. Elia. Scott is the son of Emma Jensen and brother of Wendy Diskin. The couple, who live in Austerlitz, have been coming to St. Peter's for several months, and already contributed to the life of the church by, among other things, bringing food to donate to coffee hour after church.

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From Friday, April 28, through noonish on Sunday, April 30, Rev. Donna Elia will lead a retreat at Kirkridge Retreat Center (Kirkridge.org). Kirkridge, in the beautiful Kittatinny Mountain Range, is stunning, has many places to take in nature and quiet reflection, and has an outdoor labyrinth.

Rev. Elia served on the Kirkridge Board for 6 years and has a 30-year history of going on retreats there.

Although there will be some programming, there will also be free time for walking, reading, and writing. The cost includes meals and lodging and will be about \$350 per person, with limited scholarship assistance available. Please talk with Donna if you are interested.

Women Unabridged Book Club



April is poetry month for the Women Unabridged Book Club. The poet chosen this year is May Sarton (May 3, 1912 – July 16, 1995). We decided that we do not all need to read the same book of poetry but that we each share one of her poems that we find meaningful. The next meeting is April 17 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

According to Wikipedia, Ms. Sarton wrote 53 books, including 19 novels, 17 books of poetry, 15 nonfiction works, 2 children's books, a play, and additional screenplays. According to The Poetry Foundation, Sarton's style, as defined by critics, is calm, cultured, and urbane. In much of her writing, Sarton maintains a politically conscious lens. Several of her books and ebooks of poetry are available through the library system.

The book selected for May is *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian. It is an historical novel about a woman seeking a divorce in 1662 Boston. It has been described as a page-turner, nail-biting thriller.

The book club always welcomes new participants. For questions, contact Denise Davis, 518-392-9690, or Teresa Barenfeld, 518-755-3273.

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The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) campaign, run by Presbyterian Church USA, ends on Easter Sunday, April 9. As of April 2, we have raised \$1252 of our \$2000 goal. Initially, we set our goal at \$1000. This was raised to \$2000 because we had a \$500 donation from a single donor. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our global and local neighbors in need. As you know, the funds are used to provide Hunger Relief, Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People locally and all over the world. Please consider donating.

**April Worship
Sundays at 10 AM**

(In-person and via Zoom)



2nd: Rev. Donna Elia,
Palm / Passion Sunday,
Communion

**In addition, we will
have a special Maundy**

**Thursday Service on April 6, at 6:30 PM,
led by Rev. Elia.**

9th: Rev. Donna Elia, *Easter Sunday*
Singing of the Hallelujah Chorus

16th: Rev. Donna Elia, Shared worship with
Valatie Presbyterian Church at St. Peter's

23rd: TBD

30th: Rev. Beth Illingworth

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**April Lectionary Readings**



**2nd:** Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm  
118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-  
11

**9th:** Acts 10:34-43,  
Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm  
118:1-2, 14-24, John 20:1-18,  
Matthew 28:1-10

**16th:** Acts 2:14a, 22-32,  
Psalm 16, John 20:19-31

**30th:** Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16,  
John 14:1-14

**Easter Day**  
*By Christina Rossetti*

Words cannot utter  
Christ His returning:  
Mankind, keep jubilee,  
Strip off your mourning,  
Crown you with garlands,  
Set your lamps burning.

Speech is left speechless;  
Set you to singing,  
Fling your hearts open wide.  
Set your bells ringing:  
Christ the Chief Reaper  
Comes, His sheaf bringing.

Earth wakes her song-birds,  
Puts on her flowers.  
Leads out her lambkins.  
Builds up her bowers:  
This is man's spousal day,  
Christ's day and ours.



**♪ Happy Birthday to: ♪**



|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Gabe Franck         | 4/1  |
| Kay Everding        | 4/5  |
| Kenny Davey         | 4/6  |
| Joseph Cozzolino    | 4/12 |
| Angelica Milin      | 4/12 |
| Marian Kern         | 4/14 |
| Mary Anne Davis     | 4/21 |
| Maria Crespo Pitman | 4/25 |
| Chris Cashen        | 4/28 |

*Did we forget your birthday?  
If you would like to be added to our birthday list, please contact one of our Deacons.*

# MILESTONES



*Welcome to the new addition to the Corsun family. This is baby Rose Corsun Gordon, with her parents Meryl and Kevin, brother Leander, and head and nose of curious dog Lily. Rose was born 3/2/23 (a palendromic date!). She is the seventh grandchild of Laura and Steve Corsun.*

*Joel Dyslin celebrated his 85th birthday on March 9 with his beautiful family. Joel is very active with multiple organizations including the Elk's Club, the Spencertown Volunteer Fire Department, and St. Peter's (among others). All of these organizations seek to reach out to and help others, and that is what Joel is all about. Happy Birthday, Joel.*



*Teresa and Kurt Barenfeld are thrilled to announce that their daughter Marta and her husband Grant welcomed their second child to the world on March 13 — Maisie Aurelia Frances Goodrich. Big brother Rui loves his little sister as well. Teresa and Kurt have gone to California to welcome their new grandchild in person.*

**Note:** *If you have milestones in your family (births, weddings, milestone birthdays and anniversaries, etc.), please send an email to [saintpeters.spencertown@gmail.com](mailto:saintpeters.spencertown@gmail.com) so we can share the good news with others in our community.*

# Photo Album

***From the Ecumenical Lenten Service at St. Peter's on March 29:***



*St. Peter's congregants put on quite a spread for the soup and sandwich supper at the Ecumenical Service we hosted on March 29. There were 6 kinds of soup – potato and ham, corn chowder, tortilla, carrot, cream of broccoli, and chicken noodle, with meat, meatless, and gluten-free options. There were also oodles of delicious sandwich, with options to meet all dietary requirements. Those not eaten were eagerly taken home by the diners. Larry Massimo and Pat Meess helpfully served it up!*



*From left, Wendy Diskin, Donna Staron, and Mary Anne Davis helped set up for the dinner. Donna brought white tablecloths and beautiful tulips, which made the dinner even more delightful.*

## Photo Album (Continued)



*Left and below: Diners enjoyed their food and their conversation at the Ecumenical meal.*



*We had a nice crowd at the ecumenical service, led by Elder Bonnie Pflgel from Ghent Reformed Church. We collected \$329 for Columbia County Sanctuary.*



### **Other Photos**

*Left: Rev. Elia with two new church members Scott and Vicky Jensen. We are so happy to have them!*

*Right: Joel Dyslin and Zebby Geddie.*





| Sunday<br>(Service at<br>10 AM)                                                                                                           | Monday                                                          | Tuesday                                                                                          | Wednesday                                    | Thursday                                                                                                                                               | Friday                                                                                                                | Saturday                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                           |                                                                 |                                                                                                  |                                              |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                       | 1                             |
| <b>2</b><br>Rev. Donna Elia<br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br>    | 3                                                               | <b>4</b><br>Choir Practice 7 PM                                                                  | <b>5</b><br>Council Meeting<br>7 PM via Zoom | <b>6</b><br>Maundy Thursday<br>Service 6:30 PM<br>Full Pink Moon<br> | <b>7</b><br><br><i>Good Friday</i> | 8                             |
| <b>9</b><br>Rev. Donna Elia<br><br><i>Happy Easter</i> | 10                                                              | <b>11</b><br>Deacons' Meeting 7<br>PM via Zoom                                                   | <b>12</b><br>Choir Practice 7<br>PM          | 13                                                                                                                                                     | 14                                                                                                                    | 15                            |
| <b>16</b><br>Rev. Donna Elia<br><i>Valatie Presbyterian<br/>           Church will join us in<br/>           worship.</i>                 | <b>17</b><br>Women<br>Unabridged<br>Meeting 6:30<br>PM via Zoom | <b>18</b><br> | <b>19</b><br>Choir Practice 7<br>PM          | 20                                                                                                                                                     | 21                                                                                                                    | <b>22</b><br><b>Earth Day</b> |
| <b>23</b><br>Lay Leader Jere<br>Wrightsman                                                                                                | 24                                                              | 25                                                                                               | <b>26</b><br>Choir Practice 7<br>PM          | 27                                                                                                                                                     | <b>28</b><br>Retreat at<br>Kirkridge begins                                                                           | 29                            |
| <b>30</b><br>Rev. Beth Illingworth<br>Return from retreat at<br>Kirkridge<br>Luke Olivieri Recital<br>12:30 – 3:30                        |                                                                 |                                                                                                  |                                              |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                       |                               |