



St. Peter's Press

May 2023

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church - Spencertown, NY
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Pancake Communion

By Rev. Donna Elia



So, it happened on Easter! There was some confusion about who would bring the bread for Communion. The men's group had just prepared a delicious breakfast, and we had an abundance of pancakes. Greg Diskin cut up an ample supply of pancakes for Communion- the plate was filled to

overflowing and for breaking, we placed a whole pancake and a gluten free one on the beautiful new Communion plate. Mary Anne Davis texted her friend Robyn, who's Jewish, and was planning to come to St. Peter's to join us to sing. (How cool is that!) Robyn brought a gorgeous loaf of bread, which was added to the Communion plate. Elder Jere Wrightsman broke it during the liturgy as we shared in presiding at the table. Since the loaf was a late addition, it wasn't scored, but that didn't stop Jere from breaking it! As people came forward for Communion by intinction, we served the opulent plate of cut up pancakes.

At one level, it may seem that we made do with what we had, i.e., *pancakes!* At another level, Communion elements are meant to be made of ordinary grain from the earth. On Easter, the common bread we had, in abundance, was pancakes! We took ordinary "bread" blessed and broke it and gave it to the gathered community-

from ages 2 to 92! Kids and adults alike were wide eyed with wonder, and isn't that how it should be on this special day?!

We will all remember the Easter when pancakes became Communion, and who would be surprised if it became a tradition?

May joy and new life be yours in this season of Resurrection!

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*Dear Saints at St. Peter's,  
My heart is full of joy and gratitude to you, for the very kind ways in which you reached out to express your prayers and support for me and my family at the death of my beloved*



*Mom. Thank you for your cards, your words of care, and for the beautiful peace lily you sent to the funeral home. It is now gloriously in bloom in our living room, a reminder of new*

*life. And my Mom would have loved it too!*

*With love and appreciation,  
Donna*

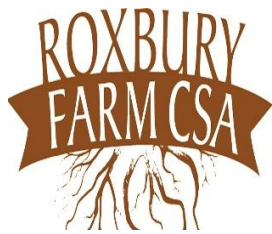
**Rev. Donna Elia** will be at St. Peter's in May on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 2 PM. Feel free to come chat with her in person while she is here. You can also call her on her cell phone (518-495-6795) or on the church phone (518-392-3386).

*With great sadness, we report that **Marian Kern** passed away Saturday, May 6. We will have more on Marian in the June issue of St. Peter's Press.*

## The Soul Café Was a Big Hit!



The first, not last, St. Peter's Soul Café was a BIG HIT! We had 56 people, with more than half of them not affiliated with St. Peter's. People donated \$440 and we still have Clara Gott grant money, so we can and will do this again. We hope to make it a regular thing, reaching out to the community. The food was great, including the fabulous desserts contributed by the congregation; the atmosphere was jovial; it was a lovely evening. Thanks to the chief chef, Joel Dyslin, and all his helpers in the kitchen. Thanks to the myriad of other helpers. Thanks to **Roxbury Farm** for donating 5 lbs. of meat and to **The Berry Farm** for giving a discount on the salad makings. *And especially thanks to Rev. Elia for suggesting we do this and leading us to make it happen.*



*When you can, support these local farms; they have wonderful food. Tell them thank you for donating to the St. Peter's Soul Café.*



## A Cooking Lesson at St. Peter's

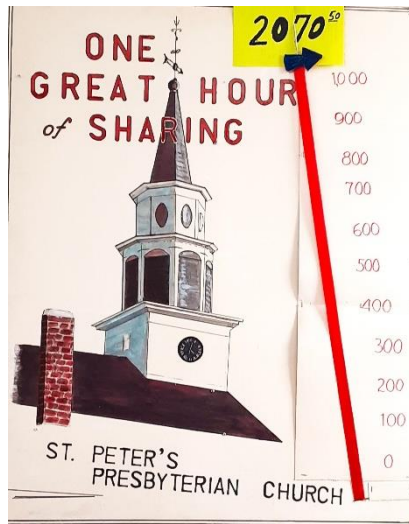
How to Make  
**Kimchi**



Jeff Kiplinger and Katy Flammia will offer a workshop on making kimchi (think spicy Korean sauerkraut) in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 20, from 10 AM to 12 noon. There is room for eight participants in the class; if there is more interest, Jeff will schedule and host another workshop. You'll learn to prepare three different kimchi recipes, both naturally fermented and fresh. We will taste the products, and everyone may take home some samples. ***If you are interested in joining the class, contact Jeff via his email address, [jeffreypkiplinger@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreypkiplinger@gmail.com).*** Don't come if you don't like garlic (but, really, who doesn't like garlic)!

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## St. Peter's Raised \$2000+ for OGHS!



**WE DID IT!** St. Peter's raised \$2070.50 for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), run by PC USA (Presbyterian Church USA)! We raised the goal from \$1000 to \$2000 after we received a \$500 donation from one individual, and then we exceeded that goal.

Thanks to all who donated. Thanks to Larry Massimo, Marion Ulmer, Shirley Newsome, and Jere Wrightsman for their Minute for Mission presentations during worship services. And thanks to Willard (Bill) Ulmer for this wonderful poster; we are so lucky to have his artistic talents in our midst.



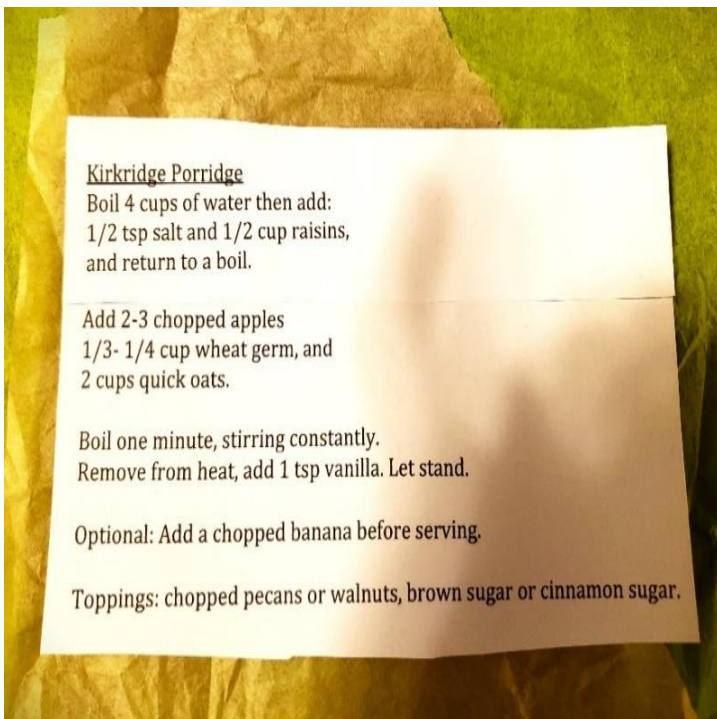
## Kirkridge Retreat, April 28-30

By Nancy Ordman

Seven travelers — Nancy Pienta and Elle Dietemann from First Presbyterian in Valatie and Marion and Bill Ulmer, Mary Anne Davis and Dan Franck, and myself — joined Pastor Donna at Kirkridge Retreat Center for a damp but fulfilling weekend of reflection, conversation, nature observation, and food. Lots of great food, including Kirkridge Oatmeal (see recipe below). We stayed in an 1815 Farmhouse, just steps away from the Appalachian Trail and the Columcille Megalith Park.

We gathered with Donna several times to read and ponder and talk. On Saturday morning, Mary Anne introduced us to Living Journaling, an activity that inspired Bill and Nancy P to paint and the rest of us to think creatively about Price Chopper receipts and old church bulletins. Despite the rain, we had a great walk to Columcille Saturday afternoon. The birders in the group, Elle and Marion, were disappointed that poor conditions limited birding, but Dan and Bill turned the walk into an impromptu botany lesson. Sunday's Communion incorporated a leftover dinner roll and raspberry lime seltzer. Not as interesting as pancakes, but we had to improvise.

Join us for our next retreat! We're already planning for 2024!



### Kirkridge Porridge

Boil 4 cups of water then add:  
1/2 tsp salt and 1/2 cup raisins,  
and return to a boil.

Add 2-3 chopped apples  
1/3- 1/4 cup wheat germ, and  
2 cups quick oats.

Boil one minute, stirring constantly.  
Remove from heat, add 1 tsp vanilla. Let stand.

Optional: Add a chopped banana before serving.

Toppings: chopped pecans or walnuts, brown sugar or cinnamon sugar.

## Spring Is Christ

by Rumi

*Everyone has eaten and fallen asleep. The house is empty. We walk out to the garden to let the apple meet the peach, to carry messages between rose and jasmine.*

*Spring is Christ,  
Raising martyred plants from their shrouds.  
Their mouths open in gratitude, wanting to be kissed.*

*The glow of the rose and the tulip means a lamp is inside.  
A leaf trembles. I tremble in the wind-beauty like silk from Turkestan.  
The censer fans into flame.*

*This wind is the Holy Spirit.  
The trees are Mary.  
Watch how husband and wife play subtle games with their hands.  
Cloudy pearls from Aden are thrown across the lovers,  
as is the marriage custom.*

*The scent of Joseph's shirt comes to Jacob.  
A red carnelian of Yemeni laughter is heard by Muhammad in Mecca.*

*We talk about this and that. There's no rest except on these branching moments.*



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Women Unabridged Book Club

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



We are Zooming this month on May 15 at 6:30 PM.

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



The Men's Group met on April 30 and will meet again May 28 after church in Valatie—location to be determined.

The group is planning a barbeque to be held sometime this summer, in conjunction with the Friends of St. Peter's. More details to follow.

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May Worship Sundays at 10 AM

(In-person and via Zoom)



7th: Rev. Donna Elia
Communion

14th: Rev. Donna Elia
Mother's Day

21st: TBD

28th: Revs. Donna Elia and Bill Levering
Pentecost Sunday. We will have a combined service with the Valatie First Presbyterian Church at Valatie at 10 AM.

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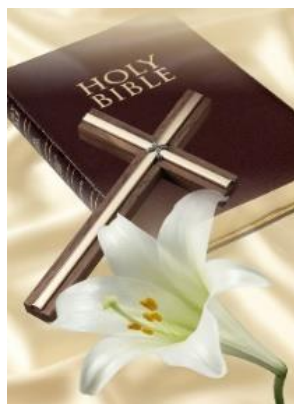
May Lectionary Readings

7th: Acts 7:5-60;
Psalm 31:1-5,
15-16; John
14:1-14

14th: Acts 17:22-31;
Psalm 66:8-20;
John 14:15-21

21st: Acts 1:6-14;
Psalm 28:1-10, 32-
35; John 17:1-11

28th: Acts 2:1-21,
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 20:19-23



Pentecost

This year, Pentecost is Sunday, May 28. It is always the 50th day after Easter in memory of *the Jewish Pentecost*, which took place 50 days after Passover. The name comes from the Greek word *pentekoste*, which means *fiftieth*. Our Pentecost service will be shared with congregants from the Valatie First Presbyterian Church IN VALATIE at 10 AM.

We learn about the Christian Pentecost in Acts 2 in the New Testament, which begins:

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

[From *The Encyclopedia Britannica* online]:

Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ, and it is often celebrated as the beginning of the Christian church.

When the festival was first celebrated in the Christian church is not known, but it was mentioned in a work from the Eastern church, the *Epistola Apostolorum*, in the 2nd century. In the 3rd century, it was mentioned by Origen, a theologian and head of the catechetical school in Alexandria, and by Tertullian, Christian priest and writer of Carthage.

Why wear red? Red is a visual reminder of the *tongues of fire* that empowered the Apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands. It also signifies the presence of the Holy Spirit in our community and our unity in Christ.

So, if you can, wear **RED** when you come to Valatie for church on May 28!

A time for gathering and refreshments will follow the service.

♪ *Happy Birthday to:* ♪



Steve Corsun	5/1
Donna Elia	5/3
Dan Franck	5/5
Sandy Fischer	5/8
Beth Illingworth	5/10
Teagan O'Rourke	5/10
Mindy Gardner	5/13
Barbara Iverson	5/16
Christopher John Cashen	5/30

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



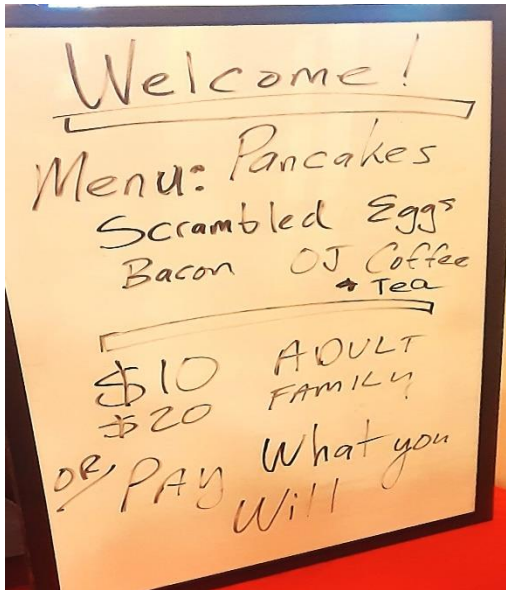
Happy Birthday to Mary Anne Davis, who turned 65 on April 21. (And she is glad to have Medicare!). She had a wonderful birthday week, celebrating with friends and family at various events. And, surprise!, her sister flew in from Minnesota to help her celebrate!

Some of the Deacons and Rev. Elia surprised Mary Anne with a visit and a plant on her birthday. From left, Kathy Geddie, Rev. Donna, Mary Anne, Randy Ezinga, Sharon Wing, and Joel Dyslin.



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

Photo Album



From the Easter Breakfast, Joyfully Cooked and Served by the Men's Group



There was a lot of camaraderie among the people enjoying the delicious Easter breakfast on April 9, just look at that menu!

It takes a lot of serious planning to put together such a fabulous event. Doing that are, from left, Paul Green, Dan Franck, Larry Massimo, Randy Ezinga, and Joel Dyslin



Greg Diskin



Joel Dyslin



Raeph Sanderson



Dan Frank

Photo Album, Easter Breakfast (Continued)



Left, the mastermind behind it all, Paul Greene; **Right**, “I’ve got the coffee if you have the cream,” Randy Ezinga and Larry Massimo.



It was good to see Galen Lange, here with Kathy Geddie and his mom, Nona. We also see a bit of George and Carol French (sipping her beverage) and Marion Ulmer





 ST. PETER'S
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 *
 SPENCERTOWN, NY

Join us and eat!
Soul Café
Tuesday, April 18
5-7PM
 Let's build community!

Menu:
 ┌ Lasagna (meat or GF veg) ─┐
 │ salad │
 │ garlic bread │
 │ homemade desserts │
 └ tea, coffee ─┘

Pay as you can or not at all. All are welcome.

From the Soul Café, April 18



Photo Album, Soul Cafe (Continued)



The goofy kitchen crew. The selfie taker, Larry Massimo, should have put more of himself in there!! Front from left, Barbara Smith, Kathy Geddie, and just a little bit of Larry. Back from left, Sharon Wing, Randy Ezinga, and chief chef Joel Dyslin.

Marcy Coalter made homemade, yes I said homemade from scratch, garlic bread!!! Yummy!



Reverend Donna Elia with servers Jennifer Thompson, Donna, Mary Anne Davis, and Denise Dunne, a Spencertown resident who told Joel she'd like to help.

Many diners complimented the food: lasagna, garlic bread, and salad.

Sometimes, you just can't help but laugh, and that's a blessing!





Sunday (Service at 10 AM)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda y	Thursda y	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Choir Practice 7 PM	3 Council Meeting 7 PM via Zoom	4	5 Full Flower Moon 	6
7 Rev. Donna Elia Joint Council-Deacon Planning Meeting after church	8	9 Deacons' Meeting 6:45 PM via Zoom	10 Rev. Elia in office 10 AM to 2 PM Choir Practice 7 PM	11	12	13
14 Rev. Donna Elia Clara Gott Meeting after church 	15 Women Unabridged Meeting 6:30 PM via Zoom.	16	17 Rev. Elia in office 10 AM to 2 PM Choir Practice 7 PM	18	19	20 Learn to make kimchi in the Fellowship Hall from 10 AM to 12 noon. 
21 TBD	22 Women Unabridged Meeting 6:30 PM via Zoom	23	24 Choir Practice 7 PM	25	26	27
28 Revs. Donna Elia and Bill Levering at the Valatie Church Pentecost Sunday Men's Group Meeting at noon; place TBD	29 	30	31 Choir Practice 7 PM			