



If I were to ask you to describe Easter without using any words, you could only use punctuation marks, which punctuation mark would you choose to describe this Easter for yourself? Maybe this Easter is a comma for you. It makes you stop, pause, think, and listen, but that is about it. Perhaps this Easter season has been a downer—a big bold period. You thought you would feel excited, but instead it seems more like an empty ritual. You feel like you are not on the inside, but on the outside...an onlooker.

It was a day when life felt like a period for Jesus' disciples. He was dead. He was buried. An end to expectations. But wait—news of an empty tomb...the period is no longer a period; it is a question mark. But that is worse than a period. Now you are beginning to doubt. Where is He? They're perplexed. The guards are gone, the stone rolled away. He is not there. And if not there, where? Jesus was gone forever, right?

An angel speaks, "He is not here, but He has risen! Remember how He spoke to you, saying, He must be crucified, and on the third day He must rise again." And slowly the disciples began to remember. The periods are now gone. The question marks removed. The doubt is turned to hopeful excitement! Now there is a one giant exclamation point!

That is what Easter is all about...an exclamation of gratitude and praise for the great resurrection of Jesus Christ and for the salvation His victory over death brought to us. HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! Let us celebrate the Good News of Resurrection!



In Christ's Love!

**Pastor Brad
Chesebro**

Stations of the Cross Service – What is it?

Malcolm, (FWC Pianist, Organist, Choir Director, Brainstormer, Inspiration to many) has come up with a special service event for Foothills Worship Center. He has been working, putting together a service called, *Stations of the Cross*. It will take place on, Friday March 31 at 7 p.m.

You may be asking yourself, "What is that?"

According to the website, Britannica, *Stations of the Cross*, also called *Way of the Cross*, is a series of 14 pictures or carvings portraying events in the Passion of Christ, from his condemnation by Pontius Pilate to his entombment. Wikipedia also states, "The objective of the stations is to help the Christian faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ." In Malcolm's words:

"I am going to ask 14 people to each take a station and write a personal meditation based upon a personal experience."

There will be 14 stations and then Pastor Brad will also be doing a 15th station.

Malcolm has encouraged participants to contact Pastor Brad and Cindy VanAllen for assistance coming up with ideas. Malcolm is wanting this to be a deeply personal and moving experience for both the audience and to the person telling their experience. The service will be emotional and moving. We hope you are able to come witness and feel Jesus' powerful journey for yourself.



Church "Save the Dates" & Events

- **March 12th - Simplified, Accountable, Leadership Team Meeting 11:30 a.m.**
- **March 17th - Last Open Gym Night Pizza Party 5 – 7 p.m.**
- **March 19th - United Women in Faith (U.W.F.) Meeting 12 p.m. - Lounge**
- **March 21st - Gardening Club Meeting 6 p.m. in the lounge**
- **March 31st - *Stations of the Cross* service in the Chapel 7 p.m.**
- **April 2nd - Palm Sunday Service 10 a.m.**
- **April 7th - Good Friday Worship Service Time is TBD**
- **April 9th - Easter Sunday Service 10a.m.**
- **April 16th - UWF Meeting 12 p.m.**
- **April 18th - Brooks House of BBQ – Runnings parking lot 3 - 6 p.m.**
- **April 23rd - Organ Concert 2 p.m. - Gym**
- **April 30th - Hymn Sing 2 p.m. - Gym**

We hope to see you there!

Our events may change so keep track of us on our Facebook page as well as our website for any cancelations and updates.



Palm Crosses

Palm Sunday is just around the corner and each year we make palm crosses for our shut-ins as well as anyone who would like one. So, if you'd like to learn how to make them come join us on March 29th, Wednesday before Palm Sunday, at Crafters and Sandy Harrington will teach you...and she'll give a refresher course to those of us who may have forgotten how since last year. Then Sunday they will be available to anyone who would like to have a palm cross...they are free for the taking!

There will be a Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner at Noon on Palm Sunday. Everyone is invited to stay after Fellowship and have dinner together. We welcome the public as well. Dessert and a Beverage is included. The price is \$12.00 per person.

How Busy is the Food Pantry?

Some may wonder how busy our food pantry really is and how much food do they go thru in a day. We receive visits from new families constantly as well as continuing to serve many of our former households. At the end of February, we ordered over 2000 pounds of food from the Regional Food Bank. Thankfully we have had member donations and grants we have also qualified for from the United Way. We have been able to help so many members of our community. Granted the numbers below are from just the first day of March 2023, but **WOW! Our food pantry gave out:**

50 Cans of Fruit
46 boxes of Mac & Cheese
50 Cans of Veggies
15 Boxes of Cereal
15 Boxes of Oats
15 Cans of Soup
15 Jars of Spaghetti Sauce
11 Jars of Peanut Butter
11 Packages of Rice
11 Boxes of Pasta

Team Work at its Best

As most of you know, we no longer have a custodian on staff. What we do have though are a team of relatives that have stepped-up to the plate and work incredibly well together. Sisters, Cathy Catucci, Lorrie Elmendorf, Carole Sweet, and Lisa Valachovic (the Burns Girls as they are better known) along with Cathy's husband Jim, have been cleaning and organizing FWC each week as well as plowing when necessary. There was a need to be filled and they didn't hesitate to step up to the plate and pitch in.

They are a little loud (per the office manager 😊) at times but it is welcome noise as they work great together, do some fantastic cleaning and organizing, all while laughing, having fun and working quickly. Jim and Cathy already volunteer in the food pantry each week and Carol is learning the ropes. Lisa and Carol sing in the choir and Lisa's husband Mike serves on S.A.L.T. They are a group of dedicated family members that we are honored to have on our team! Thanks for helping keep FWC looking so good!

Easter Word Search

Q	M	D	G	B	M	O	T	H	O	R	N	S	X	H
Z	F	F	E	W	Q	U	S	C	R	O	I	V	A	S
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	N	W	Y
X	B	S	W	Y	A	D	D	R	I	H	T	F	L	P
O	R	S	P	H	T	I	A	F	E	L	X	W	H	H
W	E	Y	Y	S	Y	O	N	X	X	J	F	R	Z	W
E	D	M	F	B	E	V	A	C	R	O	W	N	J	T
O	E	E	P	O	V	Y	T	P	R	I	S	E	N	P
I	M	S	L	H	R	G	A	H	O	O	Y	F	Y	T
E	P	S	P	C	U	G	G	D	I	S	S	A	J	E
B	T	I	C	V	A	H	I	B	N	D	T	S	P	E
E	I	A	I	S	B	R	I	V	M	U	G	L	E	W
S	O	H	Q	Z	I	Q	I	K	E	A	S	T	E	R
E	N	V	T	R	N	R	L	M	Y	N	L	Y	P	S
U	L	K	R	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	D	F

APOSTLES
CAVE
CROSS
CROWN
EASTER
FAITH
FORGIVEN

LAMB
MESSIAH
MIRACLE
REDEMPTION
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SACRIFICE

SAVIOR
SUNDAY
THIRD DAY
THORNS
TOMB



Foothills Worship Center
305 Jansen Avenue
Johnstown, NY 12095
(518)725-9611

Simplified Accountable Leadership Team

Effective February 1, 2023: The Ad Council, SPRC, Finance and Trustees are now all combined into a single board model of governance. This newly formed group, Simplified Accountable Leadership Team (SALT) now only has 10 total members and these new members were each selected based on their requisite abilities to ensure the board has members with the appropriate knowledge and skills necessary to lead the Foothills Worship Center effectively into the future.

Some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the recent change made to our church leadership structure effective on February 1, 2023

What will this look like?

A unified Leadership Team of ten people where the whole group would handle the responsibilities of our current administrative committees (Church Council, Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, and Finance). Leadership Team members will serve staggered three-year terms for greater continuity. We will still have Work Teams (Missions, Visitation, Hospitality, etc.) and task forces.

Why change? What advantages does a Simplified Accountable Leadership Team model have over our previous structure?

- **Mission-alignment:** Synchronizes and aligns all the church's ministries with the mission, vision, and goals. Holistic, missionally-aligned decision-making becomes possible as leaders now have a better understanding of all aspects of the church (Previously committees were often forced to make decisions without knowing the goals or plans of the other committees or the impacts decisions will have on other areas).
- **Efficiency:** Removes bureaucratic redundancies allowing good decisions to be made quicker to take advantage of ministry opportunities or to deal with challenging situations as they arise (Previously, ideas could spend months or years making multiple stops in the permission cycle).

- **Process Clarity:** Creates a clearer, consistent decision-making process (Previously due to our complexity, leaders often felt like they were making up processes on the run which often meant a lack of consistency in how decisions were made).
- **Greater lay involvement in the creation, adherence, and achievement of the mission, vision and goals:** Removing bureaucratic redundancies allows more members to spend their time in service as disciples who make disciples. By consolidating administrative functions into just a single team, disciples can focus on using their spiritual gifts and passions for ministry to contribute to the vitality of the congregation as it seeks to reach the mission field. More ministry and less meetings is always a good thing.
- **Greater accountability:** When everyone is in charge, no one is actually held responsible. Our structure should enable leaders to hold themselves and others accountable for missional fruitfulness and vitality.

Where did this idea come from?

Many United Methodist churches have recently gone to a streamlined form of congregational governance which they have found to be more effective. Annual Conferences across the denomination are encouraging this development as they see the advantages of lean, more strategic church leadership that's now needed.

Is this allowed by United Methodist Church rules?

The United Methodist Church has stated that "the UM Discipline is very clear that every congregation shall organize itself in a way to be most effective at carrying out the mission of the church in its own setting. Congregations have permission to organize in the best way for them, using the Discipline as a guide." Our church received District approval at our 2022 Charge Conference for a needed change in our leadership structure and FWC has recently implemented this new model.

Won't this place too much power in the hands of just a few people?

While this will place a lot of responsibility upon a few people, the unified board assures greater accountability and transparency in decision making and a firm commitment to our mission. Church members would now know exactly how the decisions are made and who makes them. Church members would know who to speak to if they have ideas or concerns. The previous United Methodist Church

administrative structure sometimes led to an unhealthy control of power by either pastors, staff, cliques within the church, or ministry teams operating solo.

How will 10 people ever find the time and energy to accomplish the work that previously required four committees?

This change is not simply a structure change but also an adaptive change. The name “Simplified Accountable” is instructive. The Team will be trained in good governance practices common today in successful churches and non-profits. The Leadership Team is responsible for strategic governance and accountability: not micro-managing and carrying out ministry. Work Teams, pastors, and staff will be responsible for the majority of the day-to-day operations of the church.

How will the church membership know what work the Team is doing?

Although the Team meetings are not open to the public, and by invitation only, the agendas and minutes of each Team meeting will all be posted on the church website in a timely manner. Paper copies can also be made available if needed. The new leadership team (S.A.L.T.) will also host at least two town-hall meetings per year where the congregation will be invited to hear updates, future plans and be included in a question-and-answer time, to offer even greater transparency.

The 2023 Simplified Accountable Leadership Team

Linda Fisher

Pastor Brad

Mike Valachovic

Sandy Sacerio

Cindy VanAllen

Malcolm Kogut

Art Schrum

Sandy Harrington

Joni Dennie

Ernie Clapper

The initial term (starting February 1, 2023) of the first Leadership Team shall be one year. In Fall 2023 a new process of leadership nominations will be explained.

Please send any questions or concerns to Pastor Brad at pastor@fwc3.org

Brooks House of BBQ is Coming April 18th!!!



Brooks BBQ will be in the Runnings parking lot in Gloversville on Tuesday April 18th from 3 - 6 p.m. Call it "Take-out Tuesday"! Don't cook. Swing by the drive thru and pick up some dinner. Come grab dinner for your whole family...Chicken, coleslaw, baked potato, roll and dessert. If you get there early you might even be able to buy a whole pie made and donated by our congregation members and sold to benefit our Women in Faith group. They sell out every year. Tickets for the dinners will be on sale starting March 19th after worship service. Prices for the dinners are \$15 each. If you want to buy just the chicken, it's only \$10 for that yummy Brooks BBQ chicken!

Birthdays & Anniversaries March & April 2023

March 3rd,
Carole Sweet

March 10th
Cassie Faville

March 20th
David Truscott

March 22nd
Debra Johnson

April 3rd
Art Schrum

April 11
Steve String

April 12th
Cathy Catucci

April 16th
Jon Glover

April 18th
Beverly Andrews

April 22nd
Cal Dennie

April 24
Darlene Vogt

April 27
Sawyer Harrington



The months of March and April are filled with so many seasonal and High-Holy dates. In order to fit them all in to this newsletter, here is a tribute to them from: St Patrick's Day, Spring beginning, April Fool's Day along with Palm Sunday, Maundy-Thursdays, Easter, Earth Day and of course, Administrative Professionals Day! I hope you have a fantastic Day...whatever the day!

Follow us on Facebook

Foothills Worship Center

305 Jansen Ave.
Johnstown, NY
12095

Visit our new Website

FWC3.org

Contact our office

Office@fwc3.org

518-725-9611