



March/April 2025 Communiqué
John Calvin Presbyterian Church
50 Ward Hill, Henrietta, NY 14467
Office Phone: 585-334-2130



The Journey through Wilderness to New Life

Lent is a season of unfolding honesty and truth-telling about our lives and our world as we journey through the wilderness until we reach the promise of a new life in resurrection. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and the humble recognition that we are all human beings with lives marred by falling short of God’s intentions for our lives as well as the recognition that we are made from the elements of creation. This is a levelling confession because no one is exempt from the dust from which we are formed or the ashes to which we return. We are all equal in those ashes, from those with the greatest wealth and power to those who have little or nothing at all. There is no hierarchy of value or importance in Ash Wednesday or on the journey of Lent.

In boldly acknowledging our humanity while embracing God’s love as our destiny, we become immune to the virus of fear on which systems of domination continue to depend, so they may maintain power and control. We live in a time when truth is questioned, when some delight in causing fear, and where a hierarchy of humanity wishes to place importance on some people while denigrating other people. Yet, the need for the truth-telling of Lent is greater than ever. Social media and those who would exploit this modern technology make it possible to formulate a “truth” that conforms to self-interest and is often at the service of domination

systems. The melting glaciers of climate change, for example, are justified in an imperial “truth” unwilling to relinquish power and control. However, Lent gives us a lens for finding truth in the headlines and our daily lives. It draws us into a narrative of God’s people living with and resisting exploitive systems of domination; it is a narrative illuminating the times in which we live.

The journey of Lent begins by engaging us with the theological and interpretive question: Which God of scripture will we follow? Will we journey within a religious tradition that sees God as integral to a domination system or will we journey within a religious tradition that embraces a liberating God of creation, known in and through relationship? Wes Howard-Brook, in his book “Come Out My People,” notes that both religious traditions are in scripture. How we answer this question will determine the truth we discover as we journey through Lent.

The Season of Easter continues this truth-telling narrative but does so with the disruptive awareness that the imperial power of domination and its imperial religion are unmasked as false hope. In sharp contrast to the short-lived Good Friday victory of empire, we are given the good news of resurrected life by a covenant-making God, the one who breathes life into Creation, whose spirit offers freedom and draws us into a relationship with each other and all that exists.

The Season of Easter continues a journey of disruption to the way things are, challenging and overturning the comfortable sensibilities of the status quo. We reflect on the ever-present possibility of transformation, turning points, and radical change that no one other than the spirit of the living Christ might imagine. On this journey, we are called to join the faithful witnesses whose lives and communities become testimonies to the realm of God for which we pray.

Peace,

Pastor Carson



Worship Leaders for 2025 - March and April

March 2	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	April 6	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser
March 9	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	April 13	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser
March 16	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	April 20	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser
March 23	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	April 27	Carl Dellefave, CP
March 30	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser		



March 5th - Ash Wednesday Worship 4:00 pm

March 9th - Continued discussion of new Mission Statement following Worship

March 16th - Honor Flight Benefit Concert, 2:00 pm
to be held at St. Catherine of Sienna Church
25 Mendon Ionia Road (Rt 64), Mendon, NY 14506
JCPC Church Choir is participating

March 30th - Church Potluck following worship

April 20th - Easter Service 10:00 am

April 27th - Voices On The Hill Benefit Concert at JCPC 1:00 pm
Proceeds to go to "Streets for Christ" - Rochester,
Outreach for the Homeless

Highlights from Session

Additional Church Potluck dates: Summer - June 22nd
Kick off to Fall - September 7th
Christmas - December 14th

- Approved the JCPC Anti-Racism Policy
- Ongoing work on building, furnace and boiler continues
- Approved rehearsals of Clarinet Connection rehearsals on Tuesday evenings
- RNS will not hold summer camp to enable roof repair/replacement during the summer
- Following Chairs/Responsibilities for 2025
 - Building and Grounds -- Randy Hamilton
 - Organ/Piano Maintenance -- Randy Hamilton
 - RNS Liaison - Janet Marventano
 - RNS Emergency Contact—Randy Hamilton
 - Personnel—Janet Marventano
 - Mission and Outreach - Joe Davis
 - Stewardship—Carl Dellefave, Jr
 - Nominating Committee—Elder Janet Marventano, Deacon Jan Stever and Carol Johnson, Member at Large
 - Worship and Christian Education—Ellen Best and Carol Johnson, Co-Chairs
 - Interfaith League—Pastor Mouser, Joe Davis and Jody Day
 - Treasurer—John Stever Co-Treasurer - Betsy Hinkley
 - Financial Secretary -Cindy Freeman Assistant—Nancy Milizia
 - Clerk of Session—Ellen Best
 - Elder Commissioner to Presbytery - Ellen Best
 - Deacon Moderator - Nancy Milizia
- \$400 was sent to Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund for the California Wildfire (\$200 from Deacons, \$200 from Session)
- Additional funds from congregation make a total of over \$750

Have Your Heard??
Two CONCERTS with a CAUSE
are coming

Save these Dates:

Sunday, March 16 at 2:00pm at St. Catherine of Sienna Church, Mendon

Sunday, April 27 at 1:00pm at John Calvin Presbyterian Church

A Concert to benefit:

HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER

Sunday, March 16 at 2:00pm

St. Catherine of Sienna Church

25 Mendon Ionia Rd (Rt. 64)

Mendon, NY 14506

Victor Community Chorus in conjunction with Area Choirs (including the JCPC Choir) and Other Guest Artists present a fundraising concert of inspiring music to benefit Honor Flight Rochester. Representatives from Honor Flight Rochester will be present to provide information. Official Honor Flight merchandise available for purchase.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED. All donations go directly to Honor Flight Rochester.

JCPC will host a Concert to benefit:

Streets for Christ

Sunday, April 27 at 1:00pm

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

50 Ward Hill Rd,

Henrietta, 14467

JCPC will host a Community Choir as part of our popular "Concerts on the Hill Series". Four area music groups are scheduled to perform (The JCPC Choir, two additional choral groups and The Clarinet Collection). The concert will include a variety of music making for a fun and entertaining show. Representatives from "Streets for Christ" will provide information about their organization. We will be accepting free-will donations benefiting "Streets for Christ" at the concert. All donations go directly to Streets for Christ - Rochester.

Admission is FREE for everyone to both concerts.

Both concerts support good organizations right here in the Rochester/Monroe County area. These afternoons promise to be entertaining and informative. Bring your family and friends. Spread the word and encourage people you know to come.

VICTOR COMMUNITY CHORUS

presents a

Concert to Benefit Honor Flight Rochester

FREE Admission - DONATIONS accepted

Honor Flight Merchandise available for purchase - Honor Flight Rochester representatives will be present



*Featuring Area Choirs
and Guest Artists*

Sunday March 16th, 2025

2:00 PM

**St. Catherine
of Siena Church**

26 Mendon Ionia Rd./Rt 64

Mendon, NY 14506



VCC: (585) 200-6376

Honor Flight: (585) 750-4271 honorflightrochester.org

Emergency Closing Procedure

We planned a review of this procedure for the Communique before we actually ended up having to use it! Thank you to everyone for playing their parts well in our need to close due to treacherous weather on February 16th. Please let us know if there were any problems with this procedure.

As a reminder:

The Pastor, Music Director and Clerk of Session will determine as early as possible if an emergency closing will be necessary. The Music Director will notify the church organist/pianist and all choir members. The Pastor will notify the Deacon Moderator who will then notify the deacons. They will let everyone on their shepherding lists know of the closing. The pastor will also send out a group email, when possible and the closing will be posted on the church website.

Thanks again everyone for helping keep our congregation and friends safe!

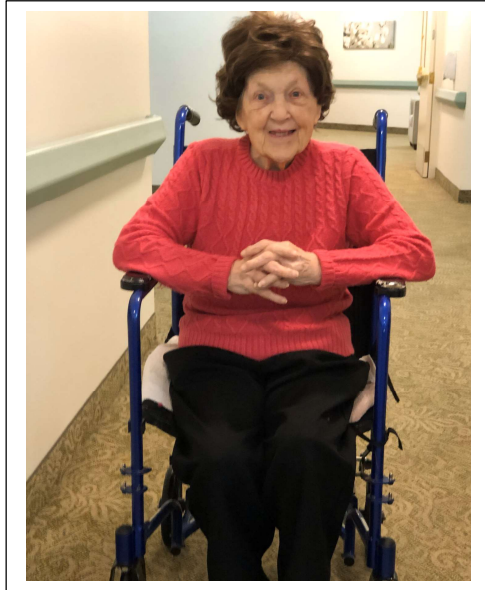
Another Safety Issue!

Please remember to make sure the front door is locked when you enter and leave during RNS hours. There have been some occasions where the door has been left unlocked, possibly due to some issues with the lock, which have now been resolved. If you double check when you enter and leave, it will be greatly appreciated. For RNS it is a safety issue for their students and staff. Thanks so much for your help with this issue.



FROM THE DEACONS:

Our community of faith here at JCPC will miss two dear friends. Patricia Plassche passed away on January 10th and Rita Crombe on January 20th. Here are some memories of each of these wonderful members.



Pat Plassche was 88 years old when she died peacefully at Heather Heights in Pittsford. She was born and raised in the Rochester, NY area and was a longtime member of JCPC, faithfully attending church with her family most every week. She loved helping with fundraisers like the Spaghetti Dinners and many of us remember her delicious homemade sweet pickles, applesauce and pretzel candies.

And who can forget her great sense of humor. She would often send out birthday cards that would include jokes and funny sayings. One card she sent had the word HUG sewn on it surrounded by a red heart and the words, "I wanted to send you something special - but how in the world do you send a hug?"

When Pat's daughter, Sherri, passed away at an early age, Pat stepped up as caregiver to Ellen & Crystal who were only 14 years old when their mom died. Pat taught the twins about bookkeeping, tax preparation, and helped them get their first apartment and later their first home.

On December 30th, 2020, one of the twin granddaughters Crystal Connor, passed away at a very young age. Only days later, she lost the love of her life, Darwin Plassche on January 20, 2021. Many of us remember Darwin as a wonderful man that loved to help in any church function. His gift of gab was legendary.

Pat loved growing flowers in her yard, especially geraniums. Her other hobbies were sewing and reading. She volunteered with the Henrietta food cupboard and participated in Crop Walks whenever she could.

Vera Forster summarized her memories well. "Pat was kind, smiling, energetic, optimistic and full of heart. She's exactly what is meant by actions speak louder than words. Hers is an example by which any of us could benefit following. Gentle, unassuming, loyal, genuine and taking joy in her duties."

Memories of Reta L Crombe (August 24, 1936 - January 20, 2025)

Written by Stepson Frank Crombe (edited by Nancy Milizia)



Reta Crombe was born on August 24, 1936, in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia. In the area's indigenous MicMac-Mi'kmaq language, Shubenacadie translates to "Place where wild potatoes grow." Her father, Charles Fenton, passed away in 1938, leaving her mother, Florence, to raise the family and manage the farm they owned.

Reta's early years exemplified the unity and strength of her family. In the face of challenging circumstances, everyone, including young Reta, worked tirelessly on the farm to make ends meet. Their family motto, "Endure forte," meaning "Brave Endurance," reflects both their Scottish and Latin heritage. Growing up in a devout Christian household profoundly impacted her. Reta attended Mill Village School until the third grade. Afterward, she dropped out to help her mother, who had fallen ill while managing the farm. Her father's passing undoubtedly added to her mother's burden. Reta became the governess of the farm, primarily caring for and feeding a dozen hardworking farmworkers. They cut lumber, plowed fields with horses, mowed hay, and fed the hogs. Haying was strenuous; the hay bales weighed between 80 and 100 pounds. The farm workers stacked these over their heads onto wagons. In addition to plowing and feeding the hogs, these men always seemed very hungry. Reta provided them with plenty of meat and taters (potatoes), as she called them. This eventually led to her moving to Rochester.

My brother, John, and I lost our mother in 1963 to cancer, leaving my father, Robert Crombe, a widower. John and I were very young, like Reta was when she lost her father. Our dad did his best, working full-time, while he had people to help care for us. My Rochester area family saw that our dad could use some help in raising his two sons. My grandfather's sister, our Aunt Jean, knew Reta could come to Rochester to help us. One day, we visited Aunt Jean; Reta was there. We came home, and Reta came with us; she became our governess that very day. I asked what a governess was.... Soon, we were eating belly-busting meals full of meat and taters. None of us were farmhands like Reta was used to feeding, but now we ate like them.

An illustration of Reta's generosity was the day I turned 13. Dad told me to go out and find a job. They were hiring caddies at Midvale Country Club. Reta offered to pack a lunch for me. Great, I thought! She handed me a lunch bag that was so full it couldn't be closed. In the bag were two sandwiches, two cookies, and two apples. After work, I would come home to a belly-busting meal. After a while, I asked her to tone it down to a single sandwich, cookie, and fruit. My dad and Reta married in 1968. Before their marriage, my dad used to load his food with salt. After getting married, Reta told him to reduce his salt intake, which he did. Vegetables were a must, too.

We lived in East Rochester, where Robert and Reta were very active members of the First Presbyterian Church. They both served as Deacons. The church was known for its pie bakers. Guess who was baking in the church kitchen? You guessed it, Reta. Her favorite church Hymn was "The Old Rugged Cross."

Robert passed away in 2007. At that time, Reta started attending John Calvin Presbyterian Church. She lived at the Legacy Assisted Living Facility, where she was known for her paper and mail route skills. After taking a fall at Legacy, she moved to the Episcopal Home. Reta is survived by her stepsons, Frank (Karen) Crombe and John (Farress) Crombe, and grandchildren Matthew, Peter, Elizabeth, and Laura. She is also a great-grandmother to Elizabeth's daughter, Kairi. Reta, you will be missed by many, and we are all sure you're cooking Belly-Busting meals for everyone in Heaven.

This year is the 200th birthday of Antoinette Brown Blackwell (ABB). She was born in Henrietta, and her childhood home is located at 1099 Pinnacle Road and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. ABB became the first female ordained minister in the United States and was a prominent suffragist and social reformer. She was the last of the original leaders of women's rights alive when the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920, and she voted for the first time at the age of 95, achieving one of the main goals in her life's work.

The ABB Society is sponsoring a 200th birthday buffet luncheon for Antionette Brown Blackwell on May 24 at the Wildwood Country Club in Rush (NY) starting at Noon. The tickets will be \$55 and \$40 for students. There will be a presentation on Antoinette's storied life by author and scholar Katherine Fredlund, Ph.D., and a presentation for the Henrietta Woman of the Year Award and ABB Scholarship award.

The ABB Society each year honors a woman of the year from Henrietta and gives out one or two scholarships to a graduating senior(s) from Rush-Henrietta High School. Jody Day was honored a few years ago as Henrietta's Woman of the Year.

There will be cards on the back table of the sanctuary for information on how to purchase ticket(s) for the event or on the website antoinettebrownblackwell.org/events/

Also, on April 4 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Henrietta Public Library community room Suzanne Schnittman, Ph.D., local historian, writer, and public speaker, presents "Provocative Mothers and Their Precocious Daughters: All Friends of Antoinette Brown Blackwell," as part of the Antoinette Brown Blackwell Society's Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Blackwell's birth. Suzanne uses letters and diaries to tell the story of 19th century women's rights leaders. Those featured in her book of the same title all considered Antoinette Brown Blackwell a close friend. Mother to five daughter, Brown Blackwell lends her insight to motherhood along with that of her colleagues, including plenty of engaging accounts of her own family. You can register for this presentation at the Henrietta Public Library website.