

Good News



First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca

315 N. Cayuga Street • Ithaca, NY, 14850 • 607-272-2800 • Rev. Kirianne Weaver, Senior Pastor • Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver, Pastoral Supply

Need to Submit an Article? Please send it to the office: office@firstpresithaca.org by the due date. We print and mail the Good News on a monthly basis. Email subscriptions also available.

Due Date for the April 2022 issue: Friday March 18, 2022

First Presbyterian Church Phone: 607-272-2800 • Fax: 607-272-2813

Email: office@firstpresithaca.org • Website: www.firstpresithaca.org

Rev. Kirianne Weaver: kirianne@firstpresithaca.org • Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver: cynthia@firstpresithaca.org

Suzanne Scholten, Director of Christian Education: suzanne@firstpresithaca.org

Kate Hubbs, Business Manager • Linda Sharpe, Office Administrator

Building Superintendent, Joe Bocchiaro

Worship Schedule for March 2022: The Season of Lent.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday:

Wednesday, March 2, at 7pm -

with the imposition of ashes

and the rending of the cloth.

Lent continues with worship each Sunday at 10am:

Communion every week, by intinction;

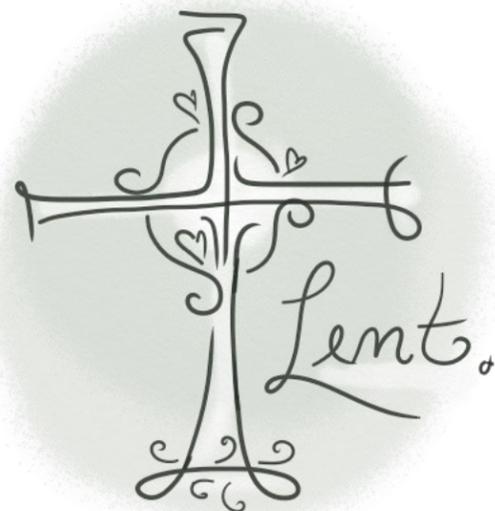
worship without alleluias; a focus on

confession and forgiveness; and a common

remembrance of the sorrows of the world, which are sadly

not too hard to find.

For those online: *please join us in communion. Bulletins are available on the website each Friday for the coming Sunday.*



Dear friends,

We shall have to tiptoe into this Lenten period with care. Lent, the liturgical season that leads up to Easter, is a time of confession, solemnity, prayer, contemplation and quietude; it can remind us of grief and sorrow. We strip worship of our alleluias; our praise is tempered by woe, and we remember the cost of resurrection.

In an historical period such as we live through now, we may find this to be salt in a wound. Shouldn't we be searching for joy, as covid appears to retreat? Shouldn't we be welcoming new arrivals with streamers and dances, harmonies and gladness? There will be those who are searching for something unabashedly happy; we have all been depressed, societally and together. We might be tempted to keep our music in major keys, and project the lightness we recall from former times.

But there is, as always, another side. Many around us have cause to grieve. We are just learning how to name, each of us, the experiences we have been through. Old words take on new personal significance. As we have capacity, we start feeling what we had previously been numb to — our own emotions, delayed, come in waves and surprise us.

So at times we are seeking celebration, an ease from the isolation through which we have lived—and at times we are looking for a safe

What's Inside:

- "Getting in the Groove for Lent"
- Youth Choir is starting up again!
- Godly Play
- Art in the Narthex

place to process grief and depression. For us this Lent, both must live side by side.

This requires gentleness — and for this I am thankful, as our God is gentle. Listen to this amazing poetic snippet from the underground Russian poet Timur Kibirov:

*Their God is what it is—what a hero!
Without fear or trembling, into mortal combat
He leads the people on a warrior's path!
And the half-moon sword is over your head,
And the horse rushes him with an arrow!*

*And ours, ours - look, child! -
ours, ours, is on a donkey.
Tsk, tsk. Toward the death of my own
he rides, and he gives peace -
granting and tasting eternal peace,
among the whistles of the world.*

It is of the essence of Lent, and Easter too, and all the moments of our faith, that they are mixed: in joy and sorrow, in heart and soul, in love and mercy. Thanks be to God.

Be well, pray often,
and do it all with love.

From Pastor Cindy

Dear Friends,

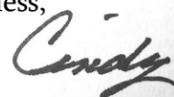
Dear Friends, I recently preached on the passage in Luke in which Jesus tells us we are to love our enemies. If you happened to hear this sermon, you heard me say that this is not an easy thing to do. In fact, it is probably something we would rather ignore or, at the very least, manage to forget about. What stood out for me as I prepared my message on this passage is that if we have people we consider to be our enemies, it is probably true that those very people and possibly even others might reciprocate that feeling. In other words, we may be considered an enemy by some.

It is this thought – me an enemy – that has kept my attention. I’ve wondered who might think of me that way, and even though I could not think of anyone in particular who might hold me in such low regard, I am wondering if I might have left some hurt feelings in my wake. Not surprisingly, I came up with a couple possibilities – nothing definite, maybe not worthy of the designation as “enemy”, but possible. That leaves me wondering what I should do, if anything, about them.

Most often, when we hear we are to love our enemies, we place ourselves, however, unintentionally, in a position above the enemy. Considering the possibility of being the enemy is humbling, and it somehow makes the command to love our enemies seem less impossible. It makes them more than just the personification of wrongdoing; it makes them more human, more like me.

And so, I will leave you where this passage has left me – wondering how to live without becoming an enemy and thinking of how I will redress the hurts I have inflicted as I have lived my perfectly imperfect life. God will forgive me, and I pray that if my heart is truly contrite, others will too.

With gratitude for your forgiveness,



Adult Education

March 6 and 13:

“Even more forgiveness” - Last fall we found that one class on forgiveness was not enough, and so we are offering a two-week continuance on this core Christian belief. We will review the fall discussion on forgiving others and then expand our focus to include asking for and receiving forgiveness from others as well as forgiving ourselves. Finally, we will consider if and when we have felt a need to forgive God. These discussion will be led by Pastor Cindy.

March 20:

Godly Play is all about wondering and opening ourselves up to where we see our own self in the Bible stories we hear. You have heard much about this curriculum that was started in January 2019. During the time of Lent, Suzanne is embarking on a journey to talk about how our children pass through the threshold every Sunday. She will cover and hopes to have conversations about, “What is a threshold?” “Why is spending time crossing the threshold important?” and “What does a threshold have to do with getting ready?” I hope you will join me for a light-hearted discussion.

March 27:

Hector Aguilar-Carreno will lead on *Where are we on COVID-19 research?* Hector, a member of our choir, is an Associate Professor in Microbiology and Immunology at Cornell. He is actively engaged in this research himself, has published on the virus, and has been a valuable resource on how our congregation safely can cope with the pandemic. We are privileged to have him share his expertise.

Announcements and Reminders

Volunteer Opportunity

The WMSL Committee is asking for volunteers to help Satre Stuelke with the livestreams on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity to serve, please contact Nita King (nak1945@gmail.com) or Satre Stuelke. (satre.md.mfa@gmail.com)

A Note to Livestream Viewers.

If you are watching our livestream broadcasts at home and would like to be able to participate more fully by joining in the singing of the hymns, please contact the church office to find out how to get a hymnal.

From the Office at First Presbyterian Church:

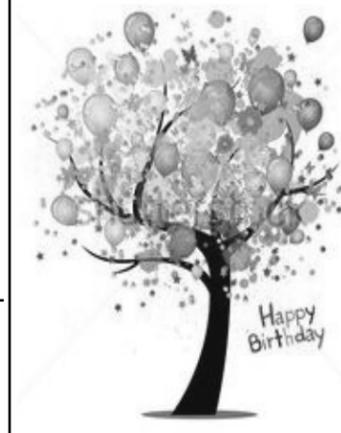
Have you moved recently; changed, added or deleted phone numbers; added or changed your email address? If your contact information has changed, please call 607-272-2800 or send an email to office@firstpresithaca.org with the changes.

If you know anyone who would enjoy receiving the Good News newsletter, either by email or snail mail, please contact the office.

Birthdays, anniversaries, other celebrations you would like to share, you know what to do...

contact the office!

Birthdays in March



- 1 – Norma Stevenson
- 3 – Alex Delfini
- 3 – Angela Possinger
- 4 – Rick Vaughan
- 17 – Timothy Riley
- 18 - Grace Htoo
- 19 – Grace Seng San
- 20 – John Yoon
- 21 – Jon Carlton
- 23 – Susan E. Wade
- 26 – Margaret Shackell
- 30 – Fumio Furuta
- 31 – Christina Mead

...We would love to add your **birthday** and/or your **anniversary**.
If it's not here, please let the office know and we will be happy to add it!

Help us make you a Nametag!

Your Membership Connections Committee would like to bring back nametags! To get a nametag made for you, please write your name *as you would like it printed* in the Friendship Pads at the beginning of the service.

When you do so, look for your printed nametag in the back of the church in the following weeks! We will have instructions on how to put together your nametag the way you want it, and we have wall slots at each door for you to keep it week to week. Wearing nametags helps everyone!

We hold in our daily prayer:

Ann Cedarholm; Bobbie Collyer; Tom Hurst; Betsy Mann; Gayle Park; David Morey; Jean Radice; Connie and Don Scott, and their family.



In particular, we remember and pray for the family of Bibs Warner, as they mourn her recent passing.

Deacons Corner

Greetings from the Deacons!

We welcome with gratitude two new members to the Board of Deacons: Jeannette Miller (she's back after many turns at being a Deacon), and Armando Pacheco. **We have room for more Deacons!** If you are interested in being part of a fun, interactive group that does important work for the church, please let Deb Streeter know (dhs4@cornell.edu, 607-279-2223).

We continue to support the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard. Please bring in canned/boxed goods and/or make financial donations. You can drop your contribution in the white shelves by the bell tower (there is also a lock box there).

Soon we'll be announcing opportunities for graduating seniors through the Deacons' Student Grants Program! Stay tuned.

Concert February 27 at 3:00 pm

Opera Noire International, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers and ONEcomposer celebrate Black History Month on the birthday of Marian Anderson. Enjoy performances by artists from the roster of Opera International, and participate in a community workshop of Margaret Bonds' recently re-discovered arrangement of *We Shall Overcome*, led by Dr. Baruch Whitehead and the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee singers. Historical context will be provided by ONEcomposer co-founders Stephen Spinelli and Tamara Acosta, as we celebrate Black History Month by honoring the legacies of Florence Price and Margaret Bonds, and their relationship with the leading singers of their day, Leontyne Price and Marian Anderson.

Sharing Library



Stop by our "Sharing Library"

Always ready to discover a good book to read?

Too many great books on our own shelves have fallen asleep! Wake them (and you) up by browsing in our "Sharing Library"

Take a book with you, pass it on or bring it back.

After church, head to the Narthex, have conversations with new and old friends near the "Sharing Library" table. Look over the books. Take one with you – no need to check it out. We hope you enjoy books we found meaningful.

Worship, Music and Spiritual Life Committee offers "slightly used" books we found in our home libraries. Sharing our treasures mean they will have new life and won't get dusty in another library.

February's offerings featured books geared toward Black History month. These are still available. March will pivot toward books promoting personal spiritual growth, consistent with a Lenten theme.

Contributions to the "Sharing Library" table are solicited from anyone who values passing on exciting and meaningful reads from their own collections.

Getting in the Groove During Lent

Lent is your time to reset, resume, or reveal your spiritual journey.

Accelerate your resolve to tend to your spiritual needs.

Walk an intentional pathway to study, prayer, or simply quiet time during the next 40 days.

Choose to gather with others or reserve a space all your own.

Possible pathways for your spiritual journey beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 2)



Tune in to an app for a daily devotion: Choose "d365.org" app.

Download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

The devotion comprises 5 steps: pause, listen, think, pray and go.

Each week has a **theme** which encourages a thoughtful response to scripture and personal commentary. Lent features the "**Journey to the Cross**" theme.

Devotions are written by ministers, professors, students teachers, missionaries, and denominational leaders who work with students; and are **appropriate for all age groups**.

You can choose instrumental music to accompany your devotion and/or trigger a feature to remind you to listen each day.

The app is sponsored by PC(USA), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Episcopal Church.

Read a book: *Lent in Plain Sight*, a devotion through ten objects.

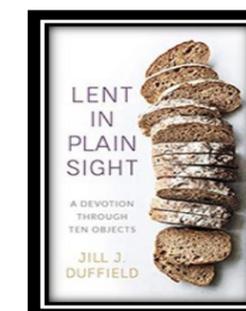
Purchase the book by Jill J. Duffield on your own. New and used copies available.

Starting on Ash Wednesday (March 2), read the daily devotion. Count on spending at least 5 minutes for your Lenten discipline of study and prayer.

Choosing to be intentional in your devotional life means clearing time and space for you to encounter and listen to God.

Each day's selection includes scripture readings, personal commentary, reflection questions, and a closing prayer.

This devotion may be discussed in a small group or on your own. If you read this book as a family, include time for discussion and personal sharing.



Youth and Children

Schedule for and March and April

Date	Acolyte	Godly Play Story	Storyteller	Door Person
March 6	Joseph A.	Faces of Easter 1	Laura	Suzanne
13	MooEh Soe	Faces of Easter 2	Laura	Ben
20	Jacob	Faces of Easter 3	David	Suzanne
27	Jonah M.	Faces of Easter 4	Laura	Kate
April 3	Joseph A.	Faces of Easter 5	Suzanne	Laura
10	MooEh Soe	Faces of Easter 6	Laura	Linda
17	Jacob A.	Faces of Easter 7	Suzanne	Ben
24	Jonah M.	Jesus and the 12	Laura	Kate

Dear Families and Friends of the youth program, we are looking for youth and mentors to participate in the acolyte lighting during the coming time of Lent in March. I hope you will be able to help and serve during this very special time.

Date	Youth Group Topic/Godly Play Story	Leaders
March 6	Lent Story	Tavie/Laura
13	Lent Story	Tavie/Suzanne
20	Lent Story	Tavie/Laura/Ben/Suzanne
27	Lent Story	Tavie/Suzanne

Dear Parents or Guardians, we are looking for Youth Ministry & Sunday School (YMSS) members to assist in attending regular meetings to talk through youth program offerings, teach Sunday school and maybe host youth events. If you are interested in getting more involved with the youth programs, please reach out to Suzanne Scholten, suzanne@firstpresithaca.org.

ART in the NARTHEX

Look for displays of original art work that will be in the Narthex in coming months.

How well do you know the individuals who worship with you week after week? We may – or may not – know their names. (See the on-going effort to reinstitute the practice of wearing nametags now underway.) But do we know anything of their interests, hobbies, or hidden talents? Some among us are gifted artists. Some are of the accomplished hobbyist variety – true amateurs. Many of us are not artists, but love art and collect art to both reflect our taste and adorn our homes. Some of us treasure certain crafts and mementoes we have brought home with us from our travels. Some of us hold onto heirlooms – art that has come down to us through our families. Knowing what we like tells a lot about us. It is a way to deepen bonds.

Due to Covid, restrictions on the ways our congregation can gather in fellowship are a fact of life these days. We wear masks and observe safe distancing as we sit in worship. We refrain from refreshments in the Narthex because you can't eat with a mask on! These “post-worship” gatherings used to be an important way of staying “in touch”. Music, Worship and Spiritual Life Committee believes sharing and displaying our art might be a fun way of reinvigorating the gatherings that strengthen the “ties that bind.”

During “Black History” month, Steve Spinelli curated a wonderful exhibit exploring and commemorating the music of black composer/ musicians Florence Price and Margaret Bonds. John Yao – who sadly is leaving us to move to Washington, DC – is exhibiting three of his many oil paintings and a pencil sketch he created during a memorable on-line session of Adult Education titled “How to Draw.” Next up, we are looking forward to a “family art exhibit” by Armando Pacheco, Hector Aguilar-Carreno, and their boys, Jacob and Joseph. This is exactly the kind of sharing we are looking for!

So ask yourself, what art work – talking about things beautiful, inventive, unusual or just curious – have I created or collected that I am willing to display with my church family? We all know this is a wonderfully creative and resourceful congregation. Think of the possibilities! We'd love to see what you treasure. Please contact Phil Courtney (607) 209-4151 if you are willing to participate.

Worship, Music and Spiritual Life

Join us for a Lenten journey in faith.

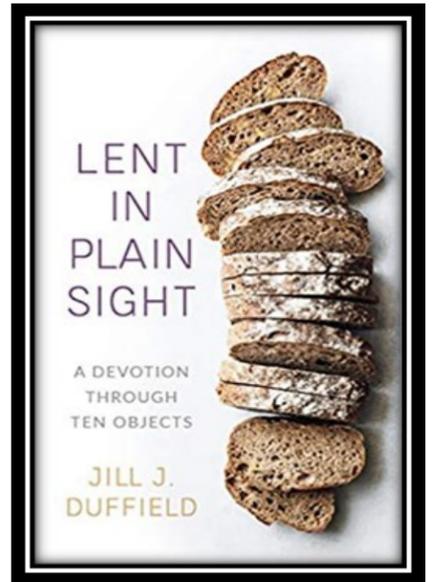
Groups begin week of March 6

The **small group experience** can expand your spiritual insights.

Share with others your understanding of scripture and devotional reflections written by Jill Duffield, an experienced small group leader. Bring questions and doubts to your small group discussion as we grow in faith together.

Each week focuses on a common object, such as dust, bread, coins, or shoes. The author infuses these objects with a new meaning imbedded in scripture passages, connecting rituals of daily living to our spiritual journey during Lent. Reflection questions and closing prayers complete each day's short devotional.

Sign up for a small group meeting on Zoom at 7 PM. **Worship, Music and Spiritual Life** committee would like to form new groups on Tuesday or Wednesday or expand the existing Monday group. Participants are expected to purchase the book **Lent in Plain Sight, a devotion through ten objects** by Jill J. Duffield on their own. Questions? Talk to Susan Van Sickle or Suzy and Phil Courtney. Sign up with Suzy Courtney (mscourtney228@gmail.com) designating preferred day



Youth Choir is Starting Again—First Sunday in March!

Bit by bit we have been able to renew the traditions of the church, back to their full strength. Now that vaccines are available to children from the age of 5 and up, we are finally ready to revive the Youth Choir!

We know that not all our singers will be able to return, but we hope any of you that can, will. We are all having to rev ourselves up a bit to get back to speed—not because we need speed, but because we are fighting off the vestiges of depres-

sion. What we want to build in Christ is a life that is rich and meaningful, with time for thought, care and prayer. Singing is rich for our human lives, filling us body and soul with meaning, beauty and community.

Kirianne will reach out to parents individually, but all are welcome to join us: Sundays starting at 11:30am, in the choir room, for good music that you will love your whole lives long.

See you then!

MARCH 2022

First Presbyterian Church * 315 N Cayuga St, Ithaca, NY 14850 * (607) 272-2800 * www.firstpresithaca.org

6 Communion Sunday 9 am—Youth Group 9:30 am - Nursery (2nd Fl) 10 am - Worship Service 10:15 am—Godly Play 11 am—Fellowship Time 11:20 am—Adult Ed 11:30 am—Youth Choir	7 3 pm—Kendal Worship & Communion 7 pm—Deacons Mtg 7 pm—Study Group	8 2:30 pm—WMSL Mtg (Zoom) 4 pm—Adult Ed Mtg (Zoom) 4:30 pm—Chamber Singers 6:30 pm—Tai Chi 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodd's and Fireside) 7 pm—AA Mtg (Dodd's and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music—3rd floor	9 2 pm—Bible Study-Zoom 6 pm—YMSS Mtg (Z) 6:30 pm—Finger Lakes Pipe Band 7pm—Personel Mtg (Z)	10 9 am—B & P Mtg 6:30 pm Community Game Night 7 pm—Piperventilators—3rd floor 7:30—Chancel Choir	11 18 GOOD NEWS DUE	12 John Weiss and the Friendship Center Meals—Kirchen
13 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 9 am—Youth Group 9:30 am - Nursery (2nd Fl) 10 am - Worship Service 10:15 am—Godly Play 11 am—Fellowship Time 11:20 am—Adult Ed 11:30 am—Youth Choir	14 7 pm—Study Group	15 4:30 pm—Chamber Singers 6:30 pm—Tai Chi 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodd's and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music—3rd floor	16 2 pm—Bible Study-Zoom 6:30 pm—Finger Lakes Pipe Band 7 pm—Membership Connections	17 6:30 pm Community Game Night 7:00 pm—JPG Mtg (Zoom) 7 pm—Piperventilators—3rd floor 7:30—Chancel Choir	18 GOOD NEWS DUE	19
20 9 am—Youth Group 9:30 am - Nursery (2nd Fl) 10 am - Worship Service 10:15 am—Godly Play 11 am—Fellowship Time 11:20 am—Adult Ed 11:30—Youth Choir	21 7 pm—Study Group	22 4:30 pm—Chamber Singers 6:30 pm—Tai Chi 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodd's and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music—3rd floor	23 SESSION MATERIAL DUE 2 pm—Bible Study-Zoom 6:30 pm—Finger Lakes Pipe Band	24 6:30 pm Community Game Night 7 pm—Piperventilators—3rd floor 7:30 pm—Chancel Choir	25 GOOD NEWS MAILING	26
27 9 am—Youth Group 9:30 am - Nursery (2nd Fl) 10 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:15 am—Godly Play 11 am—Fellowship Time 11:20—Adult Ed 11:30 am—Youth Choir	28 7 pm—Study Group 7 pm—Session	29 4:30 pm—Chamber Singers 6:30 pm—Tai Chi 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodd's and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music—3rd floor	30 2 pm—Bible Study-Zoom 6:30 pm—Finger Lakes Pipe Band	31 6:30 pm Community Game Night 7 pm—Piperventilators—3rd floor 7:30 pm—Chancel Choir		

Godly Play

We had another amazing Sunday with the children in the Godly Play room. Something, at the time that I took for granted. After I processed the event with a parent and a guardian shared their child's story with me, I realized how very special this subtle and fast moment was for the people in our Godly Play room.

Godly Play® is a curriculum that is “supposed” to take 1.5 hours, the length of a church service and adult fellowship time. In our church, the children come up after the children's sermon leaving us about 40 minutes (10:30ish-11:10) to get a lot done. One very important aspect is our feast time. We call it feast, instead of snack, to help us use the Christian language that says, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4 vs 4). Often students will notice that two cookies do not make a feast and we get to use this moment to share the bible verse.

Feast is our last main event during children's church. We come back together on the rug, we do a final prayer, we eat and we share. The children share about what they have worked on during their 20 minutes of work (the play in Godly Play®) but often it rolls into what they “are working on” at school with friends, teachers or situations in their lives away from the church. Feast time is very important but due to time restrictions we don't always get to experience it. This means, it is the part of the program that is least rehearsed and still FULL of life lessons (some may say mistakes).

This particular Sunday, that I am sharing about, was such a Sunday. We had three children helping to prepare the feast and hand it out, we had a napkin person, water person and a snack person. One of the students really wanted it to be perfect and so took the lead on handing out the napkins, the placemat for the cookies and water. The child was watching closely to the person holding the water, a big, heavy pie pan with mini, glass water cups. The water person got the first two cups out as their classmates grabbed them from the pan. Then as they walked to the third child, they leaned this pan on their thrust out belly and four glasses of water spilled. In a moment the feeling of panic set in the room. Fear overtook the person handing out the napkins and the person holding the water tray. With complete fear in their eyes the water handler made eye contact with the storyteller. The napkin handler froze in their spot from panic. In this moment the Godly Play teacher used the teachings of Montessori and said, “It looks like you may need to fill up some of the cups again, would you like help?”

The emotional relief was felt in the room and the sigh of relief was audible. The water handler went back to the sink, removed each cup of water so they could pour out the excess water, then placed the non spilled cups back onto the tray and proceeded to refill the four spilled cups. All the while the other students waited to pray with their napkin and cookies in front of them. Once the water handler was done, they came back and finished their work. The group gave thanks, prayed, ate and shared.

Just like how we use the feast to show the Christian language, Godly Play® teaches us to live as Christians through experience. Much of the Godly Play curriculum is not scripted, the schedule is the same but how we carry out that schedule per the attendees and who the adult facilitators are that week changes. The Storyteller and the door person get to be with the children as Christian, who model what it is like to “go and do likewise” (Luke 10 vs 37). Every moment has the potential to be so special for both the teachers and the students as we grow together in our Christianity.

“Service Through Love” Project

One of our “Service Through Love” projects was sending out college students a little goodie bag. Deacon Deb Streeter made the colorful cards. Our youth, Liam, MooEh SoeMya and Jonah signed the cards. Plus our adult leaders of Tavie, Laura and myself all shared little notes of inspiration with them.

