

MARCH 15, 2026

# *The Crossbeam*

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR ST. JOHN'S PARISH MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS



*Sunday, March 15, 2026*  
*3rd Sunday in Lent,*  
*Year A*

BAPTISM IS SOMETIMES CALLED ENLIGHTENMENT. THE GOSPEL FOR THIS SUNDAY IS THE STORY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND HEALED BY CHRIST. "I WAS BLIND, NOW I SEE," DECLARES THE MAN. IN BAPTISM GOD OPENS OUR EYES TO SEE THE TRUTH OF WHO WE ARE: GOD'S BELOVED CHILDREN. AS DAVID WAS ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL, IN BAPTISM GOD ANOINTS OUR HEAD WITH OIL, AND CALLS US TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN OUR DAILY LIVES.



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### PSALM 23

1 THE LORD | IS MY SHEPHERD;  
I SHALL NOT | BE IN WANT.

2 THE LORD MAKES ME LIE DOWN | IN GREEN PASTURES  
AND LEADS ME BE- | SIDE STILL WATERS.

3 YOU RESTORE MY | SOUL, O LORD,  
AND GUIDE ME ALONG RIGHT PATHWAYS | FOR YOUR NAME'S SAKE.

4 THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I SHALL |  
FEAR NO EVIL;

FOR YOU ARE WITH ME; YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY | COMFORT ME.

5 YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE | OF MY ENEMIES;  
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL, AND MY CUP IS | RUNNING OVER.

6 SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS | OF MY LIFE,  
AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE | LORD FOREVER.

-----  
"WHEN THE WORLD SPINS CRAZY,  
SPINS WILD AND OUT OF CONTROL  
SPINS TOWARD RAGE AND HATE AND VIOLENCE,  
SPINS BEYOND OUR WISDOM AND NEARLY BEYOND OUR FAITH,  
WHEN THE WORLD SPINS IN CHAOS AS IT DOES NOW AMONG US ...  
WE ARE GLAD FOR SOBERING ROOTS THAT PROVIDE BALLAST IN THE STORM.  
SO WE THANK YOU FOR OUR ROOTAGE IN COMMUNITIES OF FAITH,  
FOR OUR MANY FATHERS AND MOTHERS WHO HAVE BELIEVED AND TRUSTED AS  
FIRM WITNESSES TO US,  
FOR THEIR MANY STORIES OF WONDER, AWE, AND HEALING ...  
AND WHEN WE MEET YOU HIDDENLY,  
WE FIND THE SPIN NOT SO UNNERVING,  
BECAUSE FROM YOU THE WORLD AGAIN HAS A CHANCE  
FOR LIFE AND SENSE AND WHOLENESS.  
WE PRAY MIDST THE SPINNING, NOT YET UNNERVED,  
BUT WAITING AND WATCHING AND LISTENING,  
FOR YOU ARE THE TRUTH THAT CONTAINS ALL OUR SPIN. AMEN."  
—EXCERPT FROM WALTER BRUEGGEMANN, AWED TO HEAVEN, ROOTED IN EARTH:  
PRAYERS OF WALTER BRUEGGEMANN (FORTRESS, 2002).  
PEACE AND BLESSINGS THIS DAY.  
PASTOR V.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS PEOPLE AROUND THE MEANS OF GRACE—  
THE SAVING WORD OF GOD AND THE SACRAMENTS.

FEATURED THIS WEEK:  
SATURDAY SPOKEN WORD  
5 P.M. - IN-PERSON

THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY  
9A.M.- IN-PERSON W/SCS  
10:30A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM  
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



[This Weeks Bulletin \(click here\)](#)



SATURDAY MARCH 14 @ 5PM  
VICKY WIENKE - ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY MARCH 15 @ 9AM  
NATHAN SETLOCK- ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY MARCH 15 @ 10:30AM  
SAM REILLY- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY MARCH 15 @ 9AM  
KRISTEN HOCHULSKI- USHER

SUNDAY MARCH 15 @ 10:30AM  
SHAWN VOIT- USHER  
BENJAMIN GERMANO- ACOLYTE

ALTAR GUILD FOR MARCH:  
DEB FOX  
RHONDA DREZEK



**ANNOUNCEMENTS &  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> @ 7PM  
LENTEN JOURNEY HOSTED BY  
ST. JOHN'S**

**MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> @ 2PM  
EASTER EGG HUNT**

**BIBLE STUDY @ 6PM  
MARCH 19TH  
APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 16TH**

**UPCOMING AGAPE MEAL DATES:  
MAY 3RD**

**GIVING STATEMENTS**

GIVING STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.

716-668-2152 OR EMAIL [SJLCWS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SJLCWS@GMAIL.COM)  
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE IT  
PRINTED AND MAILED OR EMAILED.

THANK YOU!

# THIS WEEK 3/15 - 3/21

## TODAY:

9 A.M. WORSHIP W/SCS  
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP  
YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITY  
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

## MONDAY:

10 A.M. SPROUTS  
1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP  
6 P.M. SPROUTS  
6 P.M. KNITTING GROUP  
6:45 P.M. ZUMBA  
7:30 P.M. AL-ANON

## TUESDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA  
12 P.M. TAI-CHI  
6 P.M. ROCK VOICES  
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

## WEDNESDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS EXERCISE GROUP  
6 P.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL  
7 P.M. LENTEN JOURNEY

## THURSDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA  
12 P.M. NA  
5 P.M. ZUMBA  
6 P.M. BIBLE STUDY  
7 P.M. NA

## FRIDAY:

10 A.M. ENJOY LIFE (NA)  
10 A.M. SPROUTS  
7:30 P.M. GARDENVILLE GROUP (AA)

## SATURDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA  
5 P.M. WORSHIP

## **COLLECTION FOR BOOK AND JIGSAW PUZZLE SALE**

WE ARE NOW COLLECTING BOOKS AND PUZZLES FOR THE SALE IN APRIL. LAST DAY TO DONATE WILL BE APRIL 5TH. THEY CAN BE LEFT ON THE PEW IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. ALSO, NO ENCYCLOPEDIAS, MAGAZINES OR MEDIA.



## **Altar Flowers**

**PASTOR VALERIE SUGGESTS WE PAUSE THE WEEKLY ALTAR FLOWER'S DURING THE LENTEN SEASON . WE WILL RESUME WITH FLOWERS AT EASTER SYMBOLIZING THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION AND THEN EVERY SUNDAY AFTER.**

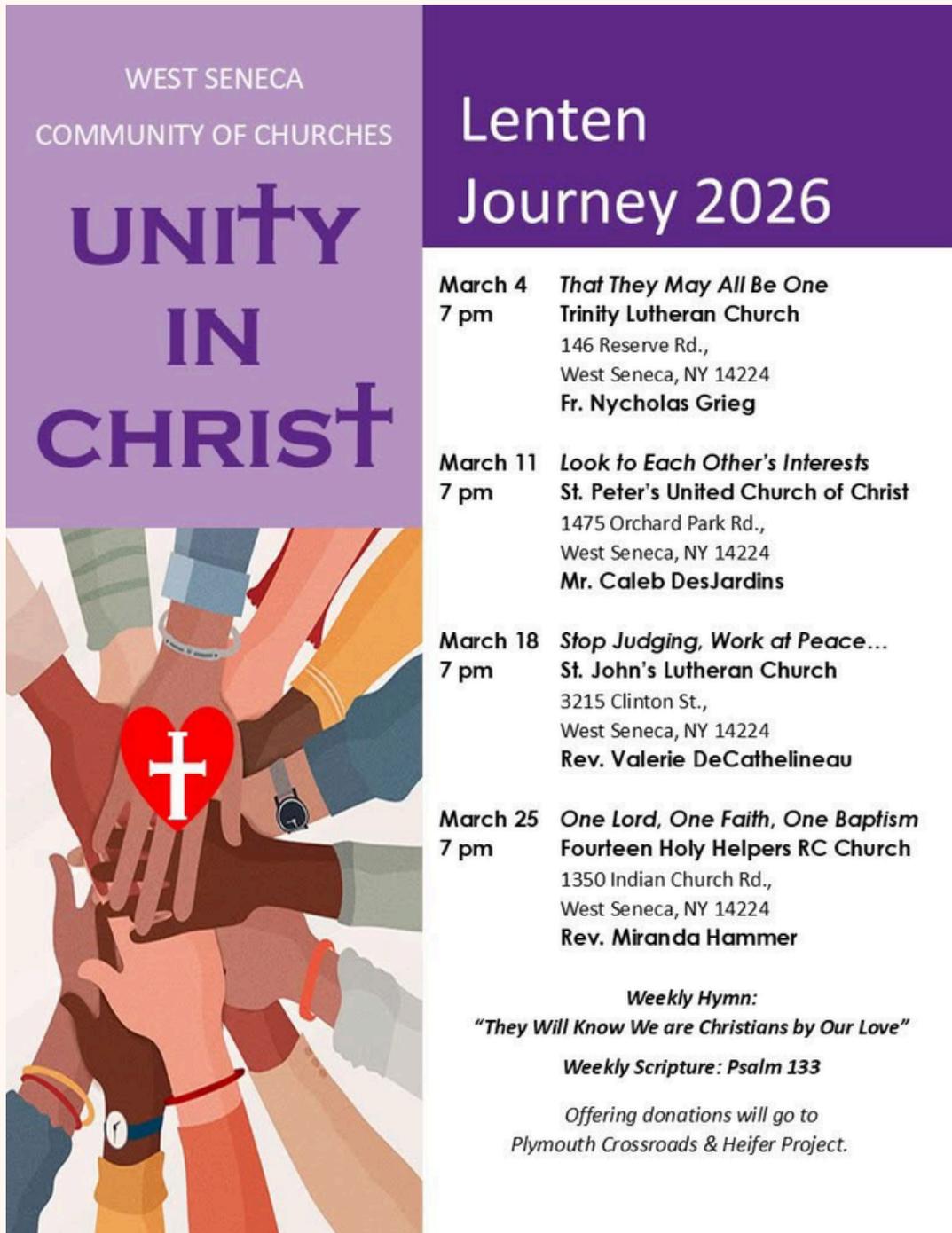
**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT AT THAT TIME WITH OUR THANKS.**

## **KNITTING MINISTRY**

THE KNITTING MINISTRY HAS REBRANDED THEMSELVES TO THE HANDMADE & HEARTFELT CREW. DO YOU KNIT, CROCHET, SEW OR MAKE FLEECE BLANKETS? WE CREATE ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION FOR THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER SHAWLS, HATS, SCARVES, MITTENS OR BLANKETS. PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CREATING AND SOCIALIZING. WE MEET ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS (WEATHER PERMITTING) YEAR ROUND. OUR NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 6PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

## READERS NEEDED

WE COULD USE MORE LITURGY READERS FOR THE 5PM SATURDAY SERVICE. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU DO RECEIVE THE READINGS AHEAD OF TIME TO PRACTICE AND HELP IS AVAILABLE IF YOU NEED IT FOR PRONUNCIATION PURPOSES.



WEST SENECA  
COMMUNITY OF CHURCHES

# UNITY IN CHRIST

## Lenten Journey 2026

**March 4** 7 pm *That They May All Be One*  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
146 Reserve Rd.,  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
Fr. Nycholas Grieg

**March 11** 7 pm *Look to Each Other's Interests*  
St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
1475 Orchard Park Rd.,  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
Mr. Caleb DesJardins

**March 18** 7 pm *Stop Judging, Work at Peace...*  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
3215 Clinton St.,  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
Rev. Valerie DeCathelineau

**March 25** 7 pm *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism*  
Fourteen Holy Helpers RC Church  
1350 Indian Church Rd.,  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
Rev. Miranda Hammer

*Weekly Hymn:*  
"They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love"

*Weekly Scripture: Psalm 133*

*Offering donations will go to  
Plymouth Crossroads & Heifer Project.*

The poster features a central text area surrounded by colorful illustrations of rabbits and Easter eggs. A blue rabbit is in the top left, a yellow rabbit in the top right, a yellow rabbit in the bottom left, and a blue rabbit in the bottom right. Easter eggs are decorated with various flowers and hearts. The text is centered and reads: "HOP INTO FUN!" in a small, black, sans-serif font; "EASTER EGG HUNT" in a large, purple, rounded, sans-serif font.

HOP INTO FUN!  
EASTER  
EGG  
HUNT

MARCH 28 | 2PM-3PM

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3512 CLINTON STREET  
WEST SENECA NY 14224

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

THE ALTAR GUILD IS OFFERING EASTER FLOWERS TO BEUATIFY  
OUR EASTER ALTAR.

YOU CAN REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE BY USING THE  
ORDER FORMS FOUND ON THE COUNTER IN THE FOYER OR  
ONLINE. THANK YOU!



### **EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM**

RED TULIPS \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_

PURPLE HYACINTHS \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_

WHITE LILLIES \$11.00 \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF : \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF : \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERS DUE BY MARCH 29TH  
CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD