



“Merrily, merrily, merrily...life is but a dream.”

If life is but a dream, then I have a problem. I rarely remember my dreams. I must be missing major parts of my life—at least, the hours that I sleep.

If I try really hard after waking from slumber, I may be able to remember fragments of a dream. Whatever I recall quickly fades like the fog in the morning.

Dream experts seem to agree. Everyone dreams. Not everyone remembers.

Not all experts agree with what happens when we dream. One camp claims that dreams are the brain’s way of processing information—either its own random electric signals, or random bits of information collected through the waking day. Another camp says dreams are nocturnal expressions of repressed desires (the rather uncomfortable Freudian wish-fulfillment theory). Still others claim dreams are our brain’s way of preparing or rehearsing how to cope with certain threats or anxieties (take the recurring dreams of arriving at school or work totally exposed or unprepared...very uncomfortable). There’s just no one theory of what happens when we dream.

The ancients believed it was a channel for divine messages to travel. Either symbolically (like the dreams of Joseph) or an angelic messenger sent with a message or warning (like Gabriel telling Joseph to stay with Mary, for instance). The dreamscape was the realm of visions, messages, portents, warnings, where the heavens communicated what human agents should change.

Dreams are just one of the many places where the Spirit speaks. There once was a prophecy about dreams that the Spirit fulfilled on the day we celebrate as Pentecost.

“Your sons and daughter shall prophecy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams, even upon male and female slaves will I pour out my Spirit” (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17-18)

In the same way that everyone dreams but may not remember it. Everyone who believes has the gift of the Holy Spirit. We just may not always remember or be aware of it.

Each of us has a direct channel to God. That channel may not always appear in the dreams of sleep. The Spirit can come in the form of a daydream, or a certain vision for the future. The Spirit can speak through circumstances and signs all around us. The Spirit can also speak through the words of a trusted friend or counselor (or even through someone with whom we disagree). The Spirit may speak through the voice of young people or in the words of our most respected elder members.

Just as everyone dreams, everyone who believes can have the Spirit speak...just not always in words. We just have to have the ears to hear—and not to let it slip from our mind like the fog in the morning. Join us this season of Pentecost so we might listen to the Spirit speak.

Together In Spirit,

Chris

MY CHURCH DIRECTORY

Would you believe, it's time to revise the church's directory – the last one was created in 2019!

Many people tell us how helpful the directory is, but unfortunately, it's not accurate now. Sadly, we have lost some beloved members, but on the other hand, we have gained some new folks as well. Bev and Arlene will work together to make this update happen. They'll take new photos and update the basic information that is included in each entry. We'll be working on this soon, probably in June, so don't run the other way when you see Arlene with her camera! Thanks.

SPEAKING OF PICTURES.....do you have any favorite shots that you would like to share? Every Sunday, while Bev plays the Music for Reflection, Arlene includes 4 or 5 photos – flowers, critters, gardens, family, etc. If you'd like to share, send them to Arlene at alongo6177@fairpoint.net. Thanks.

2nd ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



SAVE THIS DATE! – JULY 20TH. Once again, we will gather on the church lawn for fellowship, fun, and FOOD! Last year's event was such a good time that we thought it should be repeated. The festivities will once again take place right after Services. Nancy and Arlene have volunteered to co-chair this year's potluck and cookout – you'll be hearing more about it in the weeks to come. In addition to the menu, we'll need volunteers to help with setup (and breakdown), games and other things to do, and everything in between. Hope you can make it!

Sunday Morning screen services

This is to let you know that Arlene will be taking a break from doing the PowerPoint screen service each Sunday during July and August.

We so appreciate all her work each Sunday. While we will still see her at church, we will use our hymnals to sing. It is important that people get a break so They can come back refreshed in the fall. Thank you, Arlene, for all your work and planning in presenting our services each week. Enjoy your summer!



Congratulations Sopha!

Recently, Sopha Corral, a member of our congregation, became a United States citizen. It is a wonderful accomplishment that Sopha worked very hard to achieve and she certainly deserves our recognition and admiration.

Well done, Sopha!



Fall Planning

We are looking for more people to add to our current staff for videotaping, for sound board, for welcome and announcements and power point screen. If anyone is interested in learning to put a service together for our screen, Arlene would be interested in training. It is always nice to have a couple of people to do jobs so that people get a break and worship like everyone else that comes to church. We so appreciate all the people that help us on a weekly basis.

To all those people who help us each week we say THANK YOU so much.



Choir

May is our last month for regular anthems until the fall.

For the month of June, we will meet at 9 a.m. Sunday to practice golden oldies. If you want to sing with us, come at 9 a.m. on Sunday for a quick rehearsal. Choir from June through Sept will be a part of the congregation,,,,,no robes!



Special Music for the Summer

There are sheets taped on the front of the front pew. If you are interested in sharing some special music during July and August sign your name after the date you would like to do. Please write the name of the music that you will do.

If you want to share a song on CD make sure you get it to Bev ahead of time so that she is able to follow the appropriate copyright laws that we must follow. Thanks so much.

The Community Breakfast Group News

Late Spring – Early Summer 2025

Our April 6th breakfast meeting had 16 people for a great meal prepared by Matt Eckhardt, Bryan McMillan and Malcolm Beal. We also had a great crowd with plenty of food for Sunrise service breakfast on Easter Sunday. Ted counted 29 on the hill in Garfield Cemetery. On May 4, (Star Wars Day) we had 30 people attend breakfast with several guests and newcomers. Thanks everyone for attending. We discussed some church projects that might need funding help.

Breakfast dates for the remainder of the spring: June 1st, the last breakfast before summer break. Breakfast starts at 8:00am sharp. Attending church after breakfast is not required, however, we'd love to have you for both! Come and join us. We start our regular breakfast meetings again in the fall on October 5th.

If you'd like to be on our e-mail list, please reach out to Paul McMillan, Larry Eckhardt or Ted Bears. Everyone is invited—come one, come all.

Some activities for the upcoming months:

June 1st – last breakfast before summer break.

September 20th – End-of-Summer BBQ. More details to follow. Watch the church website, the newsletter and a special mailing. Great food, fellowship, and say “goodbye” to summer and our “snowbirds”.

October 5th – First breakfast of the new season. Can't wait!!!

Any questions or need additional information, contact Larry Eckhardt at 518-573-2565.

SonShiners

Meeting schedule at 8am – Bring a dish to share

May 18th

June 15th – Father's Day TBD

July 20th

Aug17th

Events



May 18th – Garden/Bake Sale 11-3pm on Route 22

Bring your items for sale to breakfast and come to the sale after church. We will be participating with the Historical Society's Car Wash at the New Scrub Board Laundromat & Car Wash, 15808 RT 22, Stephentown, NY

Sept 20th – Community BBQ

Oct 18th – Italian Dinner

Nov 4th – Election Day Luncheon

Church Manse Painting

The weather should be good for finishing the willing to paint, contact Tom Smith. This will outside of the building started last year. If borrow, please contact Tom.



trim painting on the manse. If you are complete the renovations on the anyone has a paint sprayer that we can



Report Stephentown Federated Church about Dios Viviente, Dios Viviente Aldea Pueblo Nuevo San Juan Ostuncalco, Pasos Martin de León Juárez

Dios Viviente in on the outskirts of San Juan, Ostuncalco, which is where the Mam Presbytery office is located. Darren and I met with the pastor and all the elders.

The church has elders, deacons, women's groups, children and youth, and each meet for their own prayer day during the week.

The church began with just 2 families and became a medium size church in comparison to other Mam churches, but overtime the lack of jobs forced by families to migrate, some to the US. In recent years, youth have begun working to improve their families income, so they don't see as many of them as they used to.

They were becoming an older church, but recently a lot of children have started coming with parents and grandparents, such that they find they need training and resources to educate these young people. They currently have 10 people involved in training. Mostly, they run their own teacher workshops. Currently, they are focused on the history of their church. They do have an elder who is attending a local Presbyterian seminary to help.

One problem is that they have to find parking for the church. They have a fund raising committee working on establishing

funds to buy land, hopefully not too far from the church building. Land is precious in Guatemala. Many churches have to build underground parking with the sanctuary built above it. They are also seeking to renovate the first floor for the Sunday school The sanctuary is on the second floor.

They are seeking seeds so family can grow their own vegetable gardens, and chickens for eggs and meat.

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Timothy Coombs

Co-pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church, [185 Swaggertown Road, Scotia, NY 12302](https://www.google.com/maps/place/185+Swaggertown+Road,+Scotia,+NY+12302), 518.399-8782 (ch), 518.669-0123 (ce)

Knee Scooter

As of May 1st, someone left us a knee scooter which is a mobility aid for someone who needs to keep the weight off an injured leg. If this is something you need at some point let us know at the church and we can make arrangements for you to borrow it. A special thank you to the anonymous donor. ..See Picture..



Long - term Prayer Concerns:

June Ross, Georgie, Kelly & Joe, Mary & Frank Hamilton, Betty Ann Hanlon, Don Leab, Marge Adrienne & family, Tom Foody, Paul & Joan McMillan, Sherry Ciliberti, Michael Monyahan, Rick Monyahan, Nancy & Malcom Beal, Fiona (Beal's granddaughter), Liam (Beal's grandson), Glady (Nancy Beal's sister), Liane, Ella (Beal's Granddaughter), Sarah (Beal's daughter), JoAnn (Pastor Chris' mom), Joan (Ellie's grandma) & Brittany (Ellie's mom), Craig (Ellie's Uncle in MT), Bonnie & Rick, Joy & Bob Lowenthal, Barb & Richard Terpening, Theresa Terpening, Trygve Tomlinson,

Joe & Arlene Longo, Tony Longo & his partner Dana (praying for the blessing of a baby),

Sal Longo, Tammy Madden, Martha Lagerwahl, Karen Volpi, Judy & Joe Leland, Barbara (Leland's daughter), Angelica (Leland's granddaughter), Debbie Knapp, Gene Sawin, , Alan Eckhardt, Jackie Eckhardt, Larry Eckardt's cousins in NM,

Dwight & Devon Peterson, Kathryn & the twins, Sam & Ben, James & his family, Garrett, Peggy, Mike, & Greg, Janice, Melisa/Lou/Jake/Brett, Shannon Adams, Cindy Hennig, Tommy Castillo, Titi Lourdes (Jay's aunt), Terrienne Koepp, Doris & Arnold Sours, Laurelyn & Doug Mahen, Laurelyn & Doug's daughter-in law's mom, Becca Fenander, Margie Fenander, Jane Lancaster, Jessica Morris' mom, Nancy Rogers, Zack Hanson, Steve & Deb Pentak, Kathi Jones, Edna May and family, Peter Hamilton, Jerry & Paula Robinson, Fred King, Avin Mayette, Denise (Therese Hatch's sister), Deb & Don Chaffee, Sherry & Mel Gallup,

The Eckhardt Family, Sue, Judy & John Harper, Phil & Annie Trowbridge & family, Dot Meppen, and the LGBTQ community

Please pray for our prayer partner church and their Pastor

Dios Viviente Aldea Pueblo Nuevo, San Juan Ostuncalco

Pastor Martin de Leon Juarez

As always . . .we pray for:

Our farmers, Pastor Chris & family, those with emotional/mental/physical illnesses, the unknown addict, those being cared for & the caregiver, those in transition, those suffering from addiction(s), Emergency Responders, youth of today, those in weather ravaged places, those who don't get where they are going who are cold/alone, the Military and their families, our Veterans, & our elected leaders, those imprisoned, Citizens of Lesothos & the student we sponsor, organ donors, those who mourn, those persecuted for their faith, those who have no one to pray for them, those not mentioned out loud, the unemployed, all refugees and the nations locked in conflict

Safe travel for all

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS!



BIRTHDAY WISHES

June	3	Joann Williams
	7	Skip Densing
	8	Keith Westfall
	14	Matthew Eckhardt
	14	Paul McMillan
July	5	Heather Eckhardt
	11	Patience Westfall
	18	Don Leab
	24	Joe Leland
August	1	Tammy Madden
	7	Don Lewandoski
	17	Maureen Saxby
	19	Catherine Beach
	26	Bev Westfall