

The Delmar Prez

Delmar Presbyterian Church
585 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054 (518)439-9252

MARCH 2012

Number 394

Interim Pastor's Page

CROWDS

Some of my momentous spiritual experiences were among crowds--some 200,000 at an outdoor Christian music concert, or with 20,000 Presbyterians in worship, or among 80,000 gathered on a peace march to the Capital in Washington, DC. But even in crowds, strange things can happen. People overdose on drugs. The speakers use their messages to manipulate crowds. Some shout down or attack those there who disagree with them. In a few places, stampedes occur and police fire teargas or bullets to disperse the crowds they deem unruly.

You can see crowds beginning to follow Jesus early in the Gospel of Mark. They hear of one who heals and delivers people from demons within them. He lives what he teaches. He sometimes befuddles his critics with illustrations and questions that reveal they have not been very reflective. He uses parables to speak of the nearness of God. What a great guy! No wonder he garners so many followers.

Crowds also threaten those in power. By the end of Mark's gospel, crowds have been manipulated by religious and political leaders threatened by the attention Jesus draws to himself. The crowds call for his execution. Are we speaking about the same guy, the same gospel? Yes.

While Jesus never called for any revolution to overthrow religious or political authorities, he did call people to see the way God's kingdom works. Many who were once blind to God gained sight and insight. But some who claimed to see things rightly, Jesus saw as blind guides. Judas, his own disciple, was paid to betray him into the hands of those who would see that Jesus would no longer threaten their influence and power over people.

Statisticians today measure success by the number of crowds who follow a twitter, a poll, or show up for an event, even a church service. Many of us enjoy those "feel good" moments when there are many people at worship, a church event, or contributed to some worthy cause. As long as the status quo is not threatened. However, push against the status quo – Marriage Equality or Occupy Wall Street, for example – and some congregants start attacking each other and those in power distance themselves from such churches, if not—for political survival—blackball them. "Crucify them!" is on their voice.

So you can imagine why there are so many conflicting viewpoints about who Jesus is and what he stood for. Some crowds will dedicate their lives to following him; some to persecuting his followers or ignoring his relevance. The Christian church, Delmar Presbyterian Church, lives in a challenging time. How do we, "who are clothed with Christ," manifest God's way to others who may have grown sick of hearing from hypocritical religious people, receiving their judgmental comments and stares, gathering for boring worship, and dismiss Christians as irrelevant to the 21st century? Rather than "crucify them" on their voice, is "ignore them."

The simplest answer I can offer is one we profess each Sunday: *follow the two great commands of Jesus*. Love God with everything in us, and so love our neighbors. Life changes and stuff happens. God's love remains. Does our love for God and neighbor continue, or has it been beaten down by the demonic powers around us? Can God overcome such principalities and powers by Jesus' ethic to love? You may never know until you "clothe yourself with Christ" and do so.

Join us in this Lenten season as we walk with Jesus in the 21st century. There still are crowds who hunger to know his love, his strength, and the hope his message brings to them. You are the messengers. Keep the message relevant in your lives so it may be bread for others who hunger for it.

Bob Foltz-Morrison
Interim Pastor

Pastor Bob's Contact Information
Revs. Robert and Leslie Foltz-Morrison, 74 Delaware Avenue, Apt. B, Delmar, NY 12054
Apartment Phone: 518-512-3594 Bob's cell: 908-432-0408

**MARCH CALENDAR OF
MARCH EVENTS AT CHURCH**

<u>Sunday, March 4</u>	
Worship and Communion	10:00 AM
Survey Sunday	11:00 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
BCHS Celebration Meeting	6:00 PM
<u>Monday, March 5</u>	
Boy Scouts	6:00 PM
<u>Tuesday, March 6</u>	
Boy Scouts	6:30 PM
Vision Seekers Meeting	7:00 PM
<u>Wednesday, March 7</u>	
Outreach Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
Lenten Study	7:00 PM
<u>Sunday, March 11</u>	
Worship	10:00 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
<u>Tuesday, March 13</u>	
Cub Scouts	6:30 PM
Vision Seekers Meeting	7:00 PM
<u>Wednesday, March 14</u>	
Deacons Meeting	7:00 PM
<u>Friday, March 16</u>	
Speaker: Dr. James Davis	7:00 PM

<u>Sunday, March 18</u>	
Worship	10:00 AM
Pie Day	11:30 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
<u>Tuesday, March 20</u>	
Session Meeting	7:00 PM
<u>Wednesday, March 22</u>	
Lenten Study	7:00 PM
<u>Saturday, March 24</u>	
Presbyterian Rainbow Open Meeting	10:00 AM
<u>Sunday, March 25</u>	
Worship	10:00 AM
Christian Ed Planning Committee	11:30 AM
Confirmation Class	11:30 AM

<u>Weekly events:</u>	
Background to the Bible Readings – 9 AM	
Sunday Morning Worship Service – 10 AM	
Banner Crafters – Wednesday 10:00 AM	
Bells of Praise – Thursday 6:30 PM	
Choir Rehearsal – Thursday 7:30 PM	
Women's AA Meeting – Sunday 8:00 PM	

PREZ DEADLINE for April March 11 (Note: early deadline)	

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

- March 4 Genesis 17:1-7, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38
- March 11 Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Cor. 1:18-25, John 2:13-22
- March 18 Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21
- March 25 Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

READERS

March 4 Ellen Kelly Lind
Please sign up in the Narthex.

DEACON IN CHARGE

- March 4 Judy Riopelle
- March 11 Judy Riopelle
- March 18 Pam Taft
- March 25 Pam Taft

USHERS

- March 4 Charles and Nancy Scholes
- March 11 Gary and Ellen Kelly Lind
- March 18 TBD
- March 25 TBD

WELCOMING HOSTESS

March Doris Jensen

GREETERS

- March 4 The Jensen Family
- March 11 The Allendorph Family
- March 18 The Ahner Family
- March 25 The Hyde Family

ACOLYTES

- March 4 Tory Kendrick
- March 11 Jennifer Jack
- March 18 Kevin Hansen
- March 25 John Cheu

REFRESHMENTS

- March 4 Vision Seekers
- March 11 The Allendorphs
- March 18 Pie Day - MSPYs
- March 25 The Hertzes

COMMUNION SERVERS

Nathaniel Cady, James Finke, Melissa Fleischut, Jack Gajewski, Doug Hamlin, Lee Hessberg

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Palm Sunday	April 1	10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	April 5	7:30 PM
Good Friday	April 6	7:30 PM
Prayer Vigil	April 7	12:00 PM
Easter Sunday	April 8	10:00 AM



Lent/Easter Activity

(at the church unless noted)

**Wednesdays at 7 PM, Book Study on N.T. Wright's *Simply Jesus*
Led by Robert Foltz-Morrison and Jack Gajewski**

**PALM SUNDAY, April 1, 10:00 AM
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Ken Applegate, Guest Preacher
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**MAUNDAY THURSDAY Service, April 5, 7:30 PM
Service Recreating the Events at the Last Supper
Fellowship Hall by the Cross
Led by Robert Foltz-Morrison**

**GOOD FRIDAY Stations of the Cross Ecumenical Service
April 6, 3:00 PM
St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church
(Delaware Avenue, near Four Corners in Delmar)**

**GOOD FRIDAY Service, April 6, 7:30 PM
Shared Service with Community United Methodist Church
Led by Robert Foltz-Morrison and Laurel Phillips**

**SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL, April 7, 12-3 PM
Sanctuary Open for Prayer**

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 8, 10:00 AM
The Resurrection of Christ
Robert Foltz-Morrison, Preaching
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Easter Plants Order Form

If you would like to help decorate our Sanctuary for the Easter season, please fill this form out and return with payment to the church office by **Sunday, March 18, 2011.**

Amount enclosed: _____

All plants are \$9.25 each
(no color choices available)

Your name:

Please specify who each plant is "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of":

<u>FLOWER</u>	<u>HOW MANY?</u>
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LILIES	_____
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MUMS	_____
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TULIPS	_____
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HYACINTHS	_____
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AZALEAS	_____
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<i>Total # of plants:</i>	_____
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***Plants may be taken home after
Worship on Easter Sunday***

Participate in Survey Sunday!

Attend Church on March 4th

Survey Sunday provides you with an opportunity to express your thoughts and feelings about many aspects of church life, including worship, your religious beliefs and your current involvement. Demographic questions are also included in the survey. The written survey will be conducted in the pews following the church service, it will take about 20 minutes, and your responses to the multiple choice questions will be anonymous.

It is important for a mission study to have a comprehensive picture of the congregation so that applicants for a permanent pastor position can gauge whether or not they would be a good match for us. Your input is valued!

**“Now you are the body of Christ
and individually members of it.”
1 Corinthians 12:27**

Looking forward together,
The Vision Seekers

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Valentine Luncheon in February was a well-attended and enjoyable event. Many thanks go to the adults and children of the congregation who organized the event, and prepared food, favors and centerpieces and ultimately created another fun fellowship event for our church.

March will be a busy month with several new events for our congregation to enjoy and learn from. On **March 16th**, our church will host the Reverend Dr. James C. Davis who will present *Civility, Politics, Religion: Can These Three Things Get Along?* Please refer to the event information listed in this newsletter and mark your calendars to attend what promises to be an intriguing presentation.

On **March 18th**, the MSPYs will hold our first annual Pie Day during the coffee hour after service. Details

on this event are also listed in this newsletter. The event will support Flood Relief in Schoharie and Greene Counties, a mission project of the MSPYs. We need many willing pie bakers and pie eaters to make this MSPY event a success!

Finally, on **March 25th** after service, we will host Nancy McGiven, a consultant on Christian education who will educate us on options for how to structure a church school program. The Christian Education committee has decided that, for various reasons, an overhaul of our program would be of benefit to the children and adults of our congregation. We would like to have many parents and teachers attend this discussion, as well as any other interested adults of our congregation. We hope to go forward from this discussion to create a stronger Christian Ed program for our church.

Our March schedule follows:

March 4: Communion Sunday - alternate activity provided for children in grade preK – 5

March 11: Church School

March 16: Presentation by Reverend Dr. James C. Davis

March 18: Church School – Pie Day Event presented by MSPYs

March 25: Church School and discussion with Christian Ed Consultant after service

Questions or concerns, please contact me!

Thank you,

Mary Prostick, Church School Superintendent
prostick@mac.com or 475-9574

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group has completed a study of the Book of Exodus. Summaries of the books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy were read so that we'd have a general idea of the content of the Torah. We found some of the commands and laws surprising and an interesting reflection of the culture in Moses' times. The group is concluding this year's study with the viewing of the 1956 film, The Ten Commandments. Next fall, we plan to move to the New Testament and study the Book of Matthew.

Pam Taft

MSPYs



Pi(e) Day is Coming!

Everyone knows that Delmar Presbyterian Church has some of the best bakers in town, so this is an opportunity to really show our stuff! On Sunday, March 18th immediately after worship, the MSPYs will host a special coffee hour to raise funds for Flood Relief in Schoharie and Greene counties.

The twist for this coffee hour is that it will be all pies! And for only \$3.14 (get it, Pi??) you can sample all the pie slices that you can eat! We hope that all of you will support our mission project by bringing in your favorite homemade pie either on Saturday, March 17th (any time between 4-6 pm) or on Sunday morning before church. The more pie varieties the better! We are looking for apple, berry, chocolate, pecan, sugar cream, peach, gooseberry, banana cream, or strawberry—anything you want to bake! We know that they will be delicious!

So, how far does the caring at our church go around? At least $3.14159 (\pi) \times$ the number of Delmar Presbyterian pie bakers! Thank you in advance for your support of our mission project.

--*The MSPYs*

Meatless Fridays in Lent Re-visited

Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church offers this idea for Lent: Help save the environment by eating one meatless meal a week. Raising meat (especially beef) takes 2.11 acres per unit of food, while raising vegetables takes only .5 acres. In the long run this has a more positive effect on the environment than driving a hybrid car, according to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization.

RPMs

Midnight Run

Thank you everyone who donated towards the Midnight Run, it was a great success. Look for a reflection piece next month!



Save the Date!!

RPM Coffee House

Saturday, March 10th 7:00 pm

Delmar Reformed Church

386 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY.

Tickets: \$15 or 2 for \$25

Child Care will be provided – prior sign up a must!
Tickets will be available during church fellowship hour
or contact RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com /
518.596.2116
and of course they will be available
at the door

MISSION TRIP 2012

The RPMs will head to **Claryville, NY** this year for our annual mission trip to help with flood relief from the Hurricane Irene.

Our group will depart April 8th for a week to work with the Reformed Church of America helping the residents of Claryville, NY and nearby Frost Valley with home repair and demo work due to damage caused by our recent disasters of Hurricane Irene and Lee.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS TRIP A REALITY!!!

While each person contributes around \$200 toward the cost of the trip, though our transportation costs are much lower this year, we have taken on a higher materials fee to help the residence in Claryville out best we can without the burden of telling them that we do not have the funds. These additional expenses are covered through fundraising activities, corporate

donations and assistance from congregations. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will entitle you to a complimentary dinner when the group returns and shares information about their experience.

Maybe a financial donation is how you want to contribute...That's OK!!! Do you have "frequent flyer" miles that can be used for a rental car? Do you know someone that has extra building materials or a connection to a contractor that might be able to help use with supplies? We can use all of these things for this year's trip!!! Contact Beth Gould if you can help!

Please make your check payable to "RPM Seniors". You can deliver it to the RPM mailbox at the DRC office, or mail it to Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054, and Attn: RPMs.

RPMs is an ecumenical youth group made up of youth in grades 9-12. Any youth in those grades is welcome to attend. If you have, any questions contact Beth Gould at RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com

March Calendar

Regular RPM Meetings – Delmar Reformed Church, 7:00pm
March 4th
March 18th

Mission Trip Orientation / Final Parent Meeting
March 25th
1pm-4pm

Community Service
March 17th Pancake Breakfast at Focus Churches
March 18th Schoharie Trip

SESSION DIGEST

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved at the January 2012 meeting of Session:

The elder nominees for the Nominating committee are Kristin Pung (Chair) and Dave Rees and the nominees from the congregation are Lisa Allendorph, Ginny Gajewski, Ron Tweedie, and Bob Lowry.

Barbara Vaughn was nominated for a one year term as treasurer.

The contract between Session and Robert Foltz-Morrison was revised to accommodate needed changes in the split between the categories of Pastor's Salary and Housing.

That the 2012 Proposed Budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting will be with an amended Pledge amount of \$210,000 (versus the reduced \$220,000 as proposed by the Finance Committee), resulting in a total anticipated income of \$227,200, expenses of \$244,522, and will therefore result in a deficit of \$17,322.

Gary Lind, Clerk of Session

Interim Pastor's Note: We approved action to reduce the deficit at our February 21st meeting while keeping areas of church life growing that need such attention.

With Sympathy
Sally Bosse
Died Feb. 7, 2012
Doris Turner
Died Feb. 7, 2012

NOTES FROM OUTREACH



Sharing Brings Joy. To Others, to God, to Us.
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
Offering Received April 1

2011 was a record year of Presbyterian response to disasters: an earthquake and tsunami in Japan; 1500 tornadoes across the United States – including one in Massachusetts; Hurricane Irene flooding our region; flooding in the Ohio Valley and Upper Midwest; heat waves and fires in the Southern Plains. Yet you were there to help in person and through your offerings.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is but one part of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Another part is the Presbyterian Hunger Program that provided seeds and tools for thousands of Haitian farmers alone, in addition to farmers in other parts of the world and aid for food pantries across the United States.

The third part is the Self-Development of People. Long after disaster struck Louisiana, Presbyterians still are there to provide economic development, as rebuilding the local fishing industry. Across the country, around the world sustainable economic development by those seeking to lift themselves out of poverty goes forward through your gifts to One Great Hour.

One Great Hour of Sharing touches people in more than 100 countries since it began in 1949 after World War II. Be generous. Your gift reaches around the world.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who responded to our request to re-examine your 2012 Stewardship contribution level in response to our request to increase pledging as we looked to narrow our projected budget shortfall for the current year. Thanks to your re-evaluation of the importance that the Church plays in your lives and willingness to support that component of your life we were able to increase our pledging base to the increased level of \$210,000. Without your commitments we would not be able to carry out our mission.

Giving Update

For the month of January the church received pledges & income of \$13,870 and incurred expenditures of \$15,559 for a net budgetary loss for the month of \$1,689. We will be providing this information on a monthly basis so you know how the Church is managing the resources for which you have entrusted us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CROP Walk Recruiter's Rally

Sunday, March 25 4:30-6:30 PM

First Lutheran Church, 646 State St., Albany



Come celebrate with us as we honor the top groups and walkers from the 2011 Walk, enjoy a light vegetarian meal, and hear about the local and global impact of the funds raised. Last year's walk raised \$102,566. Of that amount, 25% came back to Albany County food pantries and soup kitchens.

Please call the CACC office (462-5450) by March 15 to let us know you are coming. This event is primarily for recruiters, but if you want to find out how to be part of the May 6, 2012 CROP Hunger Walk, please join us! Help us end hunger, one step at a time!

First Church in Albany
Give a Meal a Month
- March -



Coffee, drink mixes, gelatins, puddings, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving cream.

Monetary donations are always welcome to help defray pantry expenses.

NOTES FROM FINANCE

**Invitation by Interim Pastor and
Worship Committee
to attend a CRTC-sponsored
Worship Conference
March 22 and/or March 23
9 AM – 4 PM
Brunswick Presbyterian Church, Troy**

Bob Foltz-Morrison, Jack Gajewski, and Mary Ingraham (among others) will be attending a worship conference with keynote speaker Ron Rienstra, Asst. Professor of Preaching and Worship Arts at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI. He will be joined by local presenters. The conference will help us think creatively about our worship practices. The first day focuses on worship itself - words, technology, the arts; the second day just on music - traditional, contemporary, jazz, and global.

Contact Pastor Bob at foltzmorrison@gmail.com or www.capitalrtc.org to register.

**"Civility, Politics, and Religion:
Can These Three Things Get Along?"
Delmar Presbyterian Church Community Forum
Friday, March 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM**



The Rev. Dr. James C. Davis, associate professor of religion, teaches courses on ethics, American religious history, and Christian thought at Middlebury College. The Christian Education and Congregational Life Committees, co-sponsors, are pleased that Dr. Davis has accepted our invitation to come and address a topic timely for all of us to consider in this year of a Presidential election. The event is free and open to public. Please extend invitations widely.

Capital Region Theological Center

**"Befriending Our Inner Teacher: Biblical
Foundations and Practices of Discernment"**
with Marjorie Thompson
Thursday & Friday, March 8 & 9
9 AM – 4 PM

"In the Potter's Hand: Spiritual Formation"
with Sister Katherine Hanley
Wednesdays, April 11, 18 & 25; May 2, 9, 16
6:30-9:00 PM and Saturday May 5, 9-3 PM

"Works of Love: The Challenge of Being a Disciple"
with Dr. Randall Zachman (University of Notre Dame,
IN)
and Father Dennis Tamburell (Siena College, NY)
Saturday, April 21, 9 AM – 4 PM
www.capitalrtc.org or 518.462.2470

~Voices of Hope~



**2012 Concert to Benefit the Children's
Programs of Interfaith Partnership for
the Homeless of Albany**
Sunday, March 11 – 4 PM
First United Methodist Church,
428 Kenwood Ave., Delmar

Featuring
The Capital District Youth Chorale
Pianists from the Music Studio of Albany
Mendelssohn Club of Albany
Opera Duets
Chancel Choir of Delmar Methodists



Chicago, May 25-28, 2012

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical monastic order in Taize, France. It is composed of about 100 brothers who come from Protestant, Eastern Orthodox and Catholic traditions. The brothers come from about 30 countries across the world. The monastic order has a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schutz, a Protestant.

The community has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation.

In order to reach more young people, Taize goes to different nations each year. This year Taize is coming to DePaul University in Chicago. Costs are between \$50-60 for food and local accommodation. All details are the site: chicago2012@taize.fr. The Rev. Tim Coombs, co-pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Scotia, took a group last summer to France; he will be taking another group this year to Chicago. Contact Tim Coombs at (518) 273-4991, via email at tcoombs@earthlink.net or see flyer on bulletin board.

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*Ladies Who Lunch*



*Wed., March 28<sup>th</sup>*

*Noon*

*Bring your lunch.*

*Dessert and beverage provided.*



## Presbyterian Rainbow at Delmar Church March 24

"Presbyterian Rainbow" are local Presbyterians who work toward the inclusion of all people in the Presbyterian Church (USA) regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Delmar Presbyterian Church has identified itself in Albany Presbytery as a church that seeks to be so welcoming. The Outreach Committee supports the efforts of Presbyterian Rainbow. The group has hosted an informational meeting here in the past and will do so again Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 12 PM. Not only are members of our church invited, but any from the wider community interested in meeting with people who extend a welcoming and healing hand to persons often excluded from churches. <http://www.presrainbow.org>

## Letters



Dear Irene (Harbison),

Many thanks to you, and your crew of chefs, bakers and servers, for the wonderful meal you prepared this past Monday for the Senior Meal Program at the Lutheran Church. Everything was delicious – the spinach and apple salad, turkey meatloaf, rolls and cherry dessert. There were some attendees who didn't know that meatloaf can be made from turkey

As you know, it takes a lot of volunteers to make our programs as successful as they are. With the help of people like you and the others from the Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem Senior Services works!

With much appreciation,  
Jane Sanders, Outreach Supervisor  
Town of Bethlehem, Senior Citizens Services

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to the Bethlehem Festival Fund in 2011. The number of requests for

assistance has risen and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The Bethlehem Festival Fund is used your round to provide much needed and emergency assistance for the young and old of Bethlehem. We thank you for your support of this valuable lifeline.

Sincerely yours,  
Dolores Johnson  
Secretary

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Dear Friends,

January was a particularly busy month at the Food Pantry. Despite the fact that we were three operational days short because of the holidays, we served over 100 families containing 269 people. In all we provided food for over 4,000 meals. That is a lot of food!! And it required the effort of many volunteers.

Our pantry volunteers are a fantastic group. Each day that we are open we utilize at least five volunteers. At present our full volunteer staff numbers less than twenty. They deserve a tremendous amount of credit for all they do. Of course, we are always looking for more.

Your support helps make all of this possible. Thank you for all you do.

In His Service,

Rev. Barbara Morgan

PS. You folks are WONDERFUL. Thank you for all you do!!

