



The Steeple Chimes

The E-Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
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Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Pastor

April, 2022

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

Several years ago, the choir director at the Mattituck Presbyterian Church sent word to all the North Fork churches that she wanted to form an Ecumenical Choir. This would be a very short-term commitment, just three rehearsals, and a performance that would be held on Good Friday. The piece was a major work by John Stainer: *The Crucifixion*.

At the time, I didn't need another activity on my agenda. (I still don't!) There was (and still is) no shortage of things to do in my life. However, Bob and I had started to notice that our discretionary time was being spent on activities involving home maintenance, food, and falling asleep in the living room with the television set blaring.

Oh, my goodness, we were turning into our parents!

So, we ended up singing with the choir, and found the experience to be enjoyable as well as spiritually uplifting.

When I was in college, I joined the Garden City Community Church, UCC. My reason for joining had nothing to do with theology; it was because the church had an outstanding choir. (I believe that God grabs us any way that God can. With me, it was through music.)

The two Easters that I sang with the Garden City Choir were wonderful. It was almost as if there were magic in the air. I believe the reason for that was because we would sing a major choral work during Holy Week – a multi-movement piece that calls for choir, soloists, and orchestra.

It's one thing to read about Jesus and his journey to the cross. That just involves the intellect. But to sing about Jesus and his journey to the cross – that involves the mind, the heart, and the soul.

After I graduated from college and left the Garden City church, the Easters never seemed to have that *je ne sais quoi* for me. Certainly, they were joyful, but they just didn't have that zing. But the year we sang *The Crucifixion*, the magic returned.

How can one sing "Yet in the midst of the torture and shame, Jesus, the Crucified, breathes my name," and not understand why Jesus died on the cross? How can one sing "God so loved the world" *pianissimo* with 59 other people, and not have the words of John 3:16-17 penetrate into the very depths of the soul?



Our relationship with God manifests itself in different ways. Each one of us has our own unique spirituality. Some people grow spiritually through relationships with God's children, some through interaction with nature (God's Kingdom on Earth), and some through music (undoubtedly inspired by God). Whatever it is that feeds you spiritually, I hope you will find time to indulge yourself this Easter season.

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” What an awesome thought that is to ponder this Easter. And beyond.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Ann

Zoom Worship

We will continue to “simulcast” our Sunday worship on Zoom for those who cannot be in the Sanctuary. You may log on as early as 10:00 a.m. for our 10:30 Celebration of Worship.

The easiest way to do Zoom is to download the Zoom App from the App Store. Zoom will work on a computer, a laptop, an I-Pad, or a Smartphone.

What are the Meeting IDs for Sunday Worship ?

Now through April 24, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is: **856 7373 1925** **Passcode: 575217**

May 1 through June 12, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is: **876 3374 9414** **Passcode: 327702**

If you are on the church e-mail list, you will get a weekly e-mail with the Zoom link.

What are the Meeting IDs for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday?

For Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (both at 7 p.m.), the **Meeting ID** is: **737 856 524** **Passcode: 067082**

I don't have a computer or a Smartphone. What can I do?

You may telephone the following number:

1-646-558-8656.

You will be asked for a Meeting ID and a passcode. (Please see paragraph 3.)

You won't be able to see us, but you can still hear what's going on.



Birthday Blessings!

April 8 – Genevieve Dean

April 15 – Timothy Dean

April 15 – Diane Hartmann

April 27 – Valerie Prentiss

April 27 – Bob Arelt



Our Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2022

Diane Kirchhoff

Gary Prentiss

Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean

Kathleen Gerlach

Craig Satterlee

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel

Larry Foray

Susan Perrotta



Prayer Corner

LENTEN SEASON

A time to:

FAST from DISCOURAGEMENT. Remember Jesus' promise that He has a perfect plan for you.

FAST from RESENTMENT & BITTERNESS. Work on forgiving the people who have hurt you.

FAST from ANGER & HATRED. Give your family an extra dose of love every day.

FAST from JUDGING OTHERS. Before judging, recall how Jesus overlooks our faults.

FAST from OVERSPENDING. Try reducing spending by 10% and give those savings to people in need.

FAST from COMPLAINING. Instead of complaining, recall the moments of joy in your life.

I SERVE A RISEN SAVIOR

~Alfred Ackley

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need him He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary,
I never will despair;
I know that He is leading,
Through all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him,
The Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

TAKING TIME TO LIVE ~Anon

To get the most out of life we must take time to live as well as to make a living. We must practice the art of filling our moments with enriching experiences that will give new meaning and depth to our lives.

We should take time for good books; time to absorb the thoughts of poets and philosophers, seers and prophets.

Time for music that washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

Time for friendships; time for talks by the fire and walks beneath the stars.

Time for children that we may find again the Kingdom of Heaven within our hearts.

Time for laughter; time for letting go and filling the heart with mirth.

Time for travel; time for pilgrimage and festival, for shrine and exhibit, for rockbound coast and desert, mountain and plain.

Time to give of ourselves, our talents, abilities, devotions, convictions, that we may contribute to the onward march of man.

Time for worship; time for opening our lives to God's infinite springs of vitality, that we may live more abundantly.

In all ways let us make our moments glow with life. Let us pray as did Matthew Arnold: "Calm, calm me more, not let me die, before I have begun to live."

AN EASTER CAROL

~Phillips Brooks

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the Light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right;
Faith and Hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

*He is not here; He has risen, just as he said.
Come and see the place where he lay.*

Matt 28:6



Early Spring Worship at FPC Greenlawn

March 6, the First Sunday in Lent, we reviewed “The Privileges and Responsibilities of the Christian Life.” The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated.

On March 13, we received reassurance of Christ’s love with “The Outstretched Hand of Christ.”

We explored the theme of complacency on March 20. The sermon was called, “Complacency, Thy Name Is: _____.” (You may fill in the blank.)

Reconciliation is more than just forgiveness, and that was our topic on March 27.

One of the practices of Lent is the ability to break the bonds that hold us in this life, and put the past behind. That was the sermon for April 3. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated. Leslie Strait was our guest soloist on Flute, performing “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go.”

April 10 was Palm Sunday. We celebrated Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the waving of palms and the singing of hymns. The sermon, called “The Incongruity of Palm Sunday,” dealt with the Palm Sunday vs. the Passion Sunday themes. A guest soloist, Doug Durfee, sang “The Holy City.”

Upcoming Worship Themes

Easter falls on April 17 this year. This will be a very special Service with our Women’s Choir singing two anthems, and Andrew Segale accompanying our hymns on the trumpet. After an absence of two years, our “Flowering of the Cross” will return, and Debbie Eitel will sing “Because He Lives” while we place the flowers. The sermon is “I Don’t Understand Easter.”

We will celebrate Earth Day on April 24, thanking God for the gift of the earth. If the weather is nice, we might even have an after-church property clean-up. Stay tuned!

The Presbyterian Church Trio!

We haven’t thought of an official name for the collaboration among the three local Presbyterian churches: Bethany, Greenlawn, and Sweet Hollow.

Our first collaboration was Ash Wednesday / Maundy Thursday / Good Friday. Each of the Pastors led one of the Services. Bethany Presbyterian Church hosted, and all three congregations were invited to participate via Zoom or in-person.



Our next project is a combined Summer Service, to be followed by an old-fashioned church picnic. The date and more details will be announced soon.

Telephones for the Hard-of-Hearing

Did you know that there are special telephones available for those who are hard-of-hearing? And, the phones are free! They are paid for by one of those mysterious taxes that appear every month on your phone bill.

It’s called a captioning phone, where you can both hear and read what the other person is saying. There is a screen that automatically scrolls in real time (with about a 2-second delay) during your conversation. You can also amplify the sound to hear your caller’s voice.

You do not need a doctor’s note to get one of these phones. The contact person is Lauren Torres. You may call her at (516) 721-8098, or e-mail her at ltorres@captioncall.com.



Bob Van Cleef with his new phone

FPCG Is Concerned about Ukraine

We have been praying for the people of Ukraine every week. Recently, we prayed these words:

.... *We pray for the Ukrainian people. Protect and save them from the unjust aggressors who seek to subdue them. Give them strength and courage to defend what is good, right, and holy. Keep them safe from harm and provide for all their needs, both temporal and spiritual.*

In early March, we received an offering, totaling \$820, which was sent to *Samaritan's Purse*, which is operating multiple medical facilities in various parts of Ukraine and providing food and non-food relief items through church partners in both Ukraine and Moldova.

Celebrating Twenty Years

On March 23, Althea and Andy Segale celebrated twenty years of matrimony. As part of their celebration, they threw a party for their church members on Sunday, March 20, during coffee hour.



Thank you, Althea and Andy, for the delicious luncheon. May God bless you,

and may you enjoy many, many more anniversaries together.

Lenten Soup Suppers Return!

Due to concerns about COVID, the first two of our Wednesday Night Lenten Services took place on Zoom.



After an absence of three years, the last three Wednesday Night Lenten Services went back to their original Soup Supper form.

We had lost a bit of momentum during the pandemic, but it built up over the course of the three weeks. What we did not lose was the deliciousness of the food and joy of fellowship. We look forward to continuing this tradition next year.

Leslie Strait, Flute

We are most grateful for the talents of Leslie Strait, a professional flute player who lives in the area, and lends us her musical talents, both vocal and instrumental.



On Sunday, April 3, she played a beautiful rendition of *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* during our Service of worship.

Thank you, Leslie, for sharing your gift of music.

Douglas Durfee, Baritone Voice

A member of Union United Methodist church in East Northport, Doug has been known to stop by our church, sing the last hymn with us, and then join us for coffee hour.



We convinced Doug to sing *The Holy City* for us on Palm Sunday, and everyone enjoyed it tremendously. It was a new song for him, and he will sing it again at his own church on Easter

Sunday. Thank you, Doug, for the music.

The Spirit Lifters

Where would we be without *The SpiritLifters* to make our hearts happy?

After an absence of two years from our Lenten Soup Suppers, the group returned on April 6, and did a wonderful job with their upbeat arrangements of hymns and songs of praise.

Thank you, *SpiritLifters*. You certainly lifted our spirits!





Laughter is the Best Medicine

Age 12: Fell off the bike at high velocity onto the gravel road, biked 5 miles home.

Age 60: Used wrong pillow. Back was nonfunctional for two days.

Robert asked the televangelist to pray for his hearing. After three minutes of violent shaking and trying to push him over backwards, the preacher asked, "How's your hearing?" "I don't know," Robert replied. "It doesn't take place until Tuesday at the courthouse."

Whoever said, "Out of sight, out of mind" never had a spider disappear in the bedroom.

Don't expect me to stop if you're broken down by the side of the road. You were offered an extended car warranty several times.

Who knew that the hardest part of being an adult is figuring out what to cook for dinner every single night for the rest of your life until you die?

My age doesn't bother me. It's the side effects.

Gas is so darn high; the mailman is working from home now. He called me yesterday and read my bills to me.

I checked Kelley Blue Book today for my car's value, and it asked if the gas tank was full or empty.

A police officer called the station on his radio. "I have an interesting case here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped." "Have you arrested the woman?" the desk sergeant asked. "Not yet," the officer answered. "The floor's still wet."

I asked my daughter to give me the phone book. She laughed at me, called me a dinosaur, and lent me her iPhone. So, the spider is dead, the iPhone is broken, and my daughter is furious!

From the Pastor's Kitchen: An Interesting Twist on Cheese

On our recent trip to the Iberian Peninsula, we visited an olive oil factory. As part of the visit, we prepared lunch for ourselves. My team's job was to prepare the cheese appetizer.

First, the cheese had to be cut up, and the slices arranged prettily on a plate.

Next, one of the team members mixed equal parts of honey and olive oil – about 2 tablespoons of each. It was mixed not using a spoon, but with a sprig of rosemary.

Then the mixture was painted onto the cheese using the rosemary as a paintbrush.



The cheese was served on top of bread, rather than crackers. It was delicious!

Palm Sunday

We thought you would enjoy a photo of our palms on Palm Sunday. Hosanna!



April Steeple Chimes – a Bit Late

It happens every year. There just aren't enough hours in the day for Pastors during Lent. My apologies.

- Pastor Ann