



# *The Steeple Chimes*

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

*February - March, 2022*

## **Pastor's Message**

My Beloved Church Family,

Notice that this issue of *The Steeple Chimes* says "February – March." That's because Bob and I are taking some long-overdue vacation time in February, so this edition will cover two months.

One of my responsibilities as Pastor includes writing an annual Moderator's / Pastor's Report to the congregation. This report is included in our Annual Report packet, which is distributed at our Annual Meeting. Because our *Steeple Chimes* mailing list includes folks who don't normally attend our Annual Meeting, I'm going to give you a condensed version of my 2021 report.

### **Report of the Moderator / Pastor – 2021**

My 12-week commitment to this church is coming up on two years now. How does the old saying go? People plan, and God laughs. I forgot to listen for God's laughter when I retired from Orient Congregational. God obviously had more plans for me.

A Pastor's call is not just as a faith leader, but also as a CEO. This report talks about both, but leans a bit more heavily on my administrative duties here at First Presbyterian.

**Worship Leader:** With the exception of two vacation days, I led worship for 50 Sundays, 6 Lenten Services, one Good Friday Service, one Christmas Eve Service, and one Blessing of the Pets Service in 2021. Additionally, I officiated at three Graveside Services for non-members, (Tun Hom on 3/27; Faith Alice Firman on 5/13; Kenneth L. Smith on 10/10); a Funeral Home Service and a Graveside Service for church member Ginny Soergel, on February 19, and two Baptisms (Avery Ann Sanchez on 6/13, and Paris Milani Johnson on 8/21). I officiated at The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month as well as on Ash Wednesday, and officiated at the Installation of Elders on January 31.

**Presbytery of Long Island:** I am a firm believer in the interconnectedness of the local church and the Presbytery. As such, I faithfully attended meetings of the Northwest Suffolk Presbyterian Clergy Group (we call ourselves HAPLESS). I attended Presbytery meetings on January 30, April 24, and June 26. I also attended the Presbytery Training Session for Elders on February 16, and the Presbytery Training Session for Clerks of Session on February 18. I gave General Presbyter Rev. Mark Tammen an in-person update regarding our church on October 7.



The Presbytery has moved its offices from Commack to West Islip, and was getting rid of books, furniture, and office equipment. We were able to obtain a pulpit to use in the Parlor, several chairs, some office supplies, and 84 hymnals in excellent condition.

**Unicameral System of Governance:** With 50 members, it did not make any sense for us to have two boards. In January, the congregation voted to go to a unicameral, or one-board system of governance; the Deacons and Session were combined. I feel this has worked very well for us this year.

Another change is that officers are now elected in November. That way, they are able to attend the December Session meeting as an orientation. The budget is now approved by Session in November or December, so that bills may be paid beginning January 1.

**Continuing Education:** I took a 16-hour course called “Effective Transitional Leadership” on February 24 – 25, with Rev. Arlen Vernava, of The Interim Ministry Network. I taught a Boundary Awareness Training class on Friday, October 22, and earned 6 Continuing Education hours. I attended a Church History class on Friday, November 5, and earned 1.5 Continuing Education hours. I earned an hour for each of the two Presbytery training sessions, bringing the total to 25.5 hours of Continuing Ed.

**Steeple Chimes:** I write and publish The Steeple Chimes 11 times a year, and thoroughly enjoy doing so. (By the way, we have neither a steeple nor chimes. Just sayin’!)

**Women’s Choir:** With the blessings of Music Director Leonora Colletti and by vote of Session, I have organized and directed a Women’s Choir, which has grown to 10 voices. The Choir sang on Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving Sunday, and Lessons and Carols Sunday.

**Pastor’s Office:** The Pastor’s Offices needed a bit of brightening up, so I painted and wallpapered it. We were given an L-shaped desk by The Congregational Church of Huntington. It’s not new, but it works very well for me. Many thanks to Rev. Mark Bigelow and the good people at CCH.

**Interim Ministry:** Regarding the title of my position - I was in communication with the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery. Because I am essentially doing the work of an Interim Pastor (basically, making a lot of changes) the Session wondered why I could not have that title. We were informed that (1) Interims needed to be full-time; (2) Interims need to be given benefits; (3) There is a reasonable expectation that a full-time Pastor would follow an Interim. We can’t justify a full-time Interim Pastor for a church of 50 members, I don’t need benefits, and when we do call a new Pastor, we don’t expect that the call will be for a full-time person. Instead, the Presbytery offered me the same title that Pastor Fred had – Temporary Supply. Even though I don’t have the title of Interim Pastor, I shall continue to do the interim / transitional work to which this congregation has responded so well.

**Church Fair and Christmas Fair:** I love Church Fairs! I was in charge of pricing items for the September 25 Church Fair, and ran the December 4 Christmas Fair. These events don’t make a ton of money, but they do build fellowship among our members, and are an excellent outreach into the community.

**Hosting:** Bob and I hosted a luncheon for the congregation on Pentecost Sunday. This was our church’s first coffee hour in over a year. On Saturday, July 10, we invited the entire congregation to our home in Greenport. We were thrilled that so many people attended. Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 30, 2022!

**New Policy:** Our primary purpose as a church is to worship God. At its November meeting, Session adopted a policy that we not rent our building to any outside group on Sundays before 12 noon.

**COVID 19:** We’re being very flexible. Everyone in our church has been vaccinated, and there is plenty of room for social distancing. As of now, masks are required until this latest COVID variant blows over.

**Thank you** to our staff – Leonora Colletti (Administrative Assistant and director of Music), Debbie Eitel (Fellowship Director), and Gary Prentiss (Custodian) for constantly going above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you to our Webmaster, Irene Lang, for keeping our website up to date. Thank you to our committees and teams for all the work you do. Thank you to retiring Session members Betty Chatfield and Ruth Satterlee for your years of service and for sharing your wisdom. And, thank you to members and friends of FPC Greenlawn for your devotion to our church and to God.

2022 marks our church's 150<sup>th</sup> year of service to God and humanity. We will be talking very soon about ways we will be celebrating – both big and small. We have a tentative date of Sunday, October 23 for a gala luncheon, so be sure to mark your calendar.

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 March 6, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is: **858 4222 3925** **Passcode: 657236**

March 13 through April 24, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is: **856 7373 1925** **Passcode: 575217**

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 Ash Wednesday, March 2?**

For Ash Wednesday, 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**

February 5 – Jayne Ramirez  
February 8 – Caroline Prentiss  
February 8 – Daniel Renick  
February 9 – Janice Hago  
February 13 – Kathy Fitzgerald  
February 14 – William Chatfield  
February 15 – Bob Van Cleef  
March 8 – Nancy Jill  
March 16 – Diane Kirchhoff  
March 22 – Michael Ramirez



# Prayer Corner

## PRAYER

Father, give me the wisdom to know  
how to pray for others—  
with kindness, not criticism; with love, not anger;  
with grace, not judgment.

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## THE WAY TO HAPPINESS

~Norman Vincent Peale

“The way to happiness:

Keep your heart free from hate,  
your mind from worry.

Live simply, expect little, give much.

Scatter sunshine.

Forget self, think of others.

Try this for a week and you will be surprised.”

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## A NEW DIRECTION

~Ruth Stafford Peale

“Live one day without any unhealthy thoughts.

It may be very difficult, but try another day

until it becomes habitual,

and life will move in the direction  
of becoming healthy, vital and alive.”

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Do more than exist-----live.  
Do more than touch-----feel.  
Do more than look----observe.  
Do more than read-----absorb.  
Do more than hear-----listen.  
Do more than listen---understand.

~J. Rhoades

## In Honor of PRESIDENT'S DAY FEBRUARY 21, 2022

Don't expect to build up the weak by pulling down  
the strong. ~Calvin Coolidge

Far and away the best prize that life offers  
is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

~Theodore Roosevelt

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I'm a great believer in luck and I find the harder I  
work, the more I have of it.

~ Thomas Jefferson

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Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men!

Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers.

Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

~Phillips Brooks ~quoted by President John F.  
Kennedy

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A house divided against itself cannot stand.

~Abraham Lincoln

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*Those of us who are strong and able in the faith  
need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter,  
and not just do what is the most convenient for us.  
Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us  
needs to look after the good of the people around  
us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?”*

~Romans 15:1-2 Message Bible

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"The world is very different now. For man holds in  
his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of  
human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet  
the same revolutionary beliefs for which our  
forebears fought are still at issue around the globe—  
the belief that the rights of man come not from the  
generosity of the state, but from the hand of God.....  
Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or  
ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden,  
meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any  
foe to assure the survival and the success of  
liberty..... With a good conscience our only sure  
reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let  
us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His  
blessing and His help, but knowing that here on  
earth God's work must truly be our own."

~John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address - Friday,  
January 20, 1961

submitted by Betty Chatfield



January 2: A COVID outbreak caused us to go to Zoom worship. Nonetheless, we rang in the New Year with communion, and with Andy Segale playing *Auld Lang Syne* on the saxophone.

January 9: The Baptism of Christ. Pastor Ann gave us a short course: "Baptism 101."

January 16: we unpacked Jesus' first public miracle: the changing of water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

January 23: "The Body of Christ." We can't all be an eye. Or an ear. Or a foot!

January 30: "Finding Yourself vs. Living Up to Others' Expectations."



February 6: "Leaving It All Behind." Communion Served.

February 13: Rev. Joan Finck, Guest Minister

February 20: Rev. Joan Finck, Guest Minister

February 27: "Transfiguration"



March 6: "The Privileges and Responsibilities of Christian Life." Communion served.

March 13: "The Outstretched Hand of Christ."

March 20: "Complacency, Thy Name Is \_\_\_\_."

March 27: "Reconciliation."

### Buildings and Grounds Update

- **Snow Removal Service:** The committee felt that the service did a good job with the snowstorm of January 7. The snow pole markers have been installed.
- **Work Repair Ticket System:** The committee agreed to establish a formal reporting system to track all repairs. Details will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Locking Doors on CE Hall:** The committee felt that the cost to install locks on the doors to CE Hall was prohibitive.
- **Repair of Parking Lot Light:** Bob Arelt reported that the search for an electrical contractor to repair the light continues. Four contractors have been called; to date, none has responded.
- **Schedule for Major Repairs Projects:** The following projects will be pursued in 2022: (1) Replace oil tank at manse. The search for a contractor will start next month with the tank removal and replacement scheduled for June or earlier. We will coordinate the time frame with our tenant. (2) Renovate bathrooms at church. The exact schedule will be determined when the scope of the project is fully identified at our next meeting.
- **Review Building Use Manager Responsibilities:** Larry Foray reported the responsibilities he will be undertaking in this new position. This was an FIY, as this position is not a function of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.
- **Repair of Broken Stained Glass:** The committee inspected the cracked window on the west side of the Sanctuary. Long Island Custom Stained Glass in Huntington Village will be contacted to do the repair. We have used this company in the past, with very satisfactory results.
- The committee will meet on the second Monday of each month.





### **Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday Services**

Session has voted to combine with our friends at Bethany and Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Churches to observe Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. The Services will be broadcast live on Zoom from Bethany Presbyterian.

Rev. Wade Pond, from Sweet Hollow, will lead the Ash Wednesday Service, Rev. Ann Van Cleef will lead the Maundy Thursday, Service, and Rev. James Rea, of Bethany, will lead the Good Friday Service.

The log-on information for Ash Wednesday may be found on page 3 of this newsletter. Rev. Pond asks the following: "To engage in our time of Ritual Action at our Ash Wednesday Service, you will need some sand or dirt, a small amount of water, a candle, and a small container for mixing purposes."



### **Wednesday Night Lenten Services**

"Is it soup yet?"

The answer is: we don't know. The Session has decided that the Wednesday night Services of March 9 and March 16 will be Zoom-only Services.

At the March 15 Session meeting, a determination will be made regarding the Wednesday night Services of March 23, March 30, and April 6. If the COVID numbers have gone down, we will have our traditional soup supper Service. Stay tuned!

### **Tuesday Fellowship Group**

Our Tuesday Fellowship Group has suspended meetings indefinitely.

Many thanks to those who participated, and a special thanks to Ron Lievendag for coming up with this idea.

### **Read the fine Print on Your Gift Cards**



New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli is urging New Yorkers to spend the gift cards they received this past holiday season in a timely fashion. If not, the money could eventually be turned over to the Office of Unclaimed Funds. In the last seven years, the amount returned to DiNapoli's office in unused gift cards has risen sharply from \$5.8 million in 2014 to \$16 million in 2021.

Many thanks to Betty Chatfield for making us aware of this situation.

### **Building Use Manager**

We have a lot of groups renting space in our building. Larry Foray has volunteered to be our Building Use Manager, and Session has approved.

As Building Use Manager, Larry will be the initial contact for new building users. He will provide an e-mail address and phone number to contact if problems arise. He will have evening office hours the first Monday of every month to talk to various tenants if needed, and to meet with potential building users who are unable to visit the church during the day.



Thank you, Larry, for volunteering for this important task.

### **Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, January 23. During the meeting, we accepted the Annual Report, and reviewed the budget for 2022.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office for those who were unable to attend the meeting.

### **Celebrate “Souper Bowl Sunday” with Us!**

You are invited celebrate the Super Bowl with us! Except we’re spelling it “Souper” Bowl.

Every week during the month of February, we are collecting canned soup for our Little Food Pantry.



We are doing this project in partnership with *The Souper Bowl of Caring*, a nation-wide movement that unites

communities to tackle hunger. This organization inspires people to alleviate hunger on a local level. All of the soup that is collected is given to a charity of the participant’s choice; in our case, to our Little Food Pantry.

Started in 1990 at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, the Souper Bowl of Caring has branched out to include schools, businesses, and congregations of all faiths. In the 30 years of its existence, over \$163 million in food and donations has been raised for local food pantries. In 2020 alone, thousands of groups collected over \$10.6 million in food and contributions.

### **Ordination and Installation of Elders**

On January 16, we ordained and installed new Elders to serve on Session. Because of the pandemic, we were unable to do the traditional Laying-on of Hands. Instead, the new Elders held onto one end of a long ribbon, with members of the congregation holding onto the other end.



Congratulations to our new Elders: Larry Foray and Craig Satterlee. Congratulations also to Elders Debbie Eitel and Susan Perrotta, who have been elected to another term.

### **Congregational Care Committee**

Our Congregational Care Committee, under the leadership of Arlissa Dean, meets on an informal basis to discuss the needs of our members, and how the committee can be of help. Do you have a heart for caring for others? Talk to Arlissa about joining this kind and helpful group.

### **February 14 is National Donor Day**

Valentine’s Day has a new meaning when you need an organ transplant to survive. 120,000 Americans, who are currently waiting for precious organ transplants, depend on people to sign up with their state’s organ donor registries on National Donor Day every February 14. It’s a more concrete way to show love than giving heart-shaped candy, roses, or red velvet teddy bears. By donating organs such as corneas, tissue, marrow, platelets, and blood, you create a living legacy of your generosity with the ultimate gift of love.



In New York State, you may log onto the New York State Donate Life Registry for information on becoming an organ or tissue donor. You may also sign up when you renew your driver’s license.

### **Women’s Retreat Postponed**

The Women’s Retreat, which was to be held at Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY, May 5 – 7, has been postponed for a year due to concerns about COVID.

### **Our Church’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

2022 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> year since our church’s founding. How are we going to celebrate this occasion? Some of the ideas discussed at the January Session meeting included:

- Taking a group photo of the congregation
- Obtaining proclamations from the Town, County, State, etc.
- Checking with the local Historical Society to see what they have concerning our church
- Creating a timeline of important dates in our church’s history
- Having a “Homecoming Service” where we invite former Pastors, former members, and people from Presbytery
- A Gala Luncheon following the Homecoming Service. Tentative Date: October 23.

Do you have any ideas about how we can celebrate? Please see Pastor Ann.

### From the Pastor's Kitchen

Years ago, when I was teaching in Southampton, our Hispanic families put on a food festival at a local church. I attended, wanting to support my students.

One of the many things I learned that day was that potatoes were first domesticated in the Andes of South America. There are over 4,000 varieties of potatoes in the world, and most of them are grown in South America. How many varieties do we find in our supermarkets? Eight, maybe?

I love the baby red white and purple potatoes. Each one has its own unique flavor. Here's how I like to cook them.



#### Roasted Red, White, and Purple Potatoes

Ingredients:

- Red, white, and purple potatoes, as many or as few as you like.
- Olive Oil
- Kosher Salt

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Put some heavy-duty aluminum foil on a cookie sheet, (unless you really like scrubbing pans). Cut the potatoes in half. Rub olive oil on the flat cut side of the potatoes, and put them face-down on the cookie sheet. Sprinkle with kosher salt. (You may add garlic salt or your favorite spice if you like.) Bake for about ½ hour. To see if they're done, give one or two of them a little squeeze; they should be soft. Enjoy!

### Masks

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will continue to wear masks in the church building. Thank you for your cooperation.



I just replaced the can of air freshener in the church bathroom with an air horn. And now we wait ...

Don't tell secrets in the garden. The potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears, and the beanstalk.

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "An ambulance."

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, will fall on a Tuesday. It will literally be a "2's day!" I hope someone out there appreciates this as much as I do!

Most people are at the age where they are using their phones to document the good times in their lives. I am at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels that I can't read, and use my phone to enlarge the print so that I can read it.

I couldn't afford an Ancestry DNA kit. Instead, I announced that I had won the lottery, and soon found out who all my relatives were.

I tried mixing Mexican alcohol with 20<sup>th</sup> Century American literature last night. I ended up with Tequila Mockingbird.

How to tell you're an adult:

- You gain 30 pounds overnight.
- You'd rather sleep in than go out.
- Everything hurts.
- Comfort before style.
- You have a favorite spatula.
- College students look like 12-year-olds.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice that when you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together, it spells "Theirs?"

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.