



The Steeple Chimes

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

June, 2022

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

Well, it happened. Despite all of the precautions we took, both Bob and I came down with COVID late last month. We are testing negative now, but I would like to share some thoughts with you.

I know exactly where we caught it – on a cruise ship.

New thing I learned # 1: Even though people test negative for the COVID virus, they can still be carriers.

In order to even get on that cruise ship, we had to test negative at a doctor's office 24 – 48 hours prior to the trip. COVID-19 transmits when people breathe in air contaminated by droplets containing the virus. The risk of breathing these in is highest when people are in close proximity (like in elevators on cruise ships).

New thing I learned # 2: The symptoms of COVID can manifest themselves in several ways. For me, I thought I was coming down with a cold. That's a common sign. Bob, on the other hand, had no symptoms whatsoever. That's fairly common as well. And, at the risk of sounding gross, pay attention to your "number two." An unusual "number two" may be the first sign that something is amiss.

New thing I learned # 3: Test yourself often. You could have COVID and not know it. Like Bob.

Free test kits are available from the government. If you haven't already done so, go on www.COVID.gov and order some kits to keep on hand.

New thing I learned # 4: Even though you have had your shots and boosters, that does not guarantee that you will not get sick.

Having those shots *does* guarantee that if and when you do get sick, you will not die.

New thing I learned # 5: The statistics published in Newsday are not alarming. But you need to know that there are people out there who test positive and then don't seek medical treatment, so they don't get included in those statistics.

We went to a walk-in clinic, as our regular doctor does not have weekend hours. Know that if you test positive, the doctor is obligated to report you to the NY State Department of Health. In my case, I got a text from the Health Department about 30 minutes after I left the clinic, reminding me about what I should and shouldn't be doing. In Bob's case, we got a telephone call from an actual person, checking to see how he was doing. And, do you know what? That's okay!



New thing I learned # 6: You will be given a choice as to whether or not you want medication. However, some doctors are very conservative, and might not want to prescribe medication at all.

I was prescribed a medication called Paxlovid, which prevents the virus from replicating. True, there were side effects, including a metallic taste in the mouth, muscle cramps, night sweats, fatigue, and “the runs.” But in three days I felt better, and in four days I tested negative. In Bob’s case, the doctor (different one, different day) had some philosophical objections about prescribing the medication, so I had to call another walk-in clinic.

New thing I learned # 7: People who have recovered from COVID-19 have immunity – for a while, anyway.

A research review published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in April concluded that people who had recovered from COVID-19 had significant protection against reinfection for at least seven months.

Usually, I try to make my Pastor’s message an inspiring one, bringing God into the picture. And, certainly God was present in our recovery. For that, I am grateful. But this time around, I thought it was important to share my experiences with you.

I am not a medical professional, so legally and ethically, I cannot give medical advice. (Notice that I prefaced everything by saying “New thing I learned.”) But as your Pastor and friend, I pray that you take measures to stay healthy and safe. And, if you do get sick, I pray that you will make informed decisions regarding your recovery.

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?

June 19 through July 31, inclusive, **Meeting ID: 814 0660 4905, Passcode: 473096**

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

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!

6/18	Gary Prentiss
6/20	Darlene Jacobs
6/20	Michelle Perrotta
6/22	Frances Woodward
6/23	Marian Adams
6/23	Andrew Segale
6/24	Craig Satterlee



Prayer Corner

A FATHER'S PRAYER

~Mauzon W. Brabham

Father, today I bring to Thee
This boy of mine whom Thou hast made.
In everything he looks to me;
In turn I look to Thee for aid.

He knows not all that is before;
He little dreams of hidden snares.
He holds my hand, and o'er and o'er
I find myself beset with fears.

Father, as this boy looks to me
For guidance and my help implores,
I bring him now in prayer to Thee;
He trusts my strength, and I trust Yours.

Hold Thou my hand as I hold his,
And so guide me that I may guide.
Teach me, Lord, that I may teach,
And keep me free from foolish pride.

Help me to help this boy of mine,
To be to him a father true;
Hold me, Lord, for everything,
As fast I hold my boy for You.

GIVE US, O LORD, A STEADFAST HEART

~Thomas Aquinas

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart,
which no unworthy affection may drag down;
Give us an unconquered heart,
which no tribulation can wear out;
Give us an upright heart,
which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.
Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God,
understanding to know Thee,
Diligence to seek Thee, wisdom to find Thee,
and a faithfulness that may finally embrace Thee,
even through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your strength.*

*These commandments that I give you today
are to be upon your hearts.*

Impress them on your children.

*Talk about them when you sit at home
and when you walk along the road,
when you lie down
and when you get up.*

~Dt 6:5-7

LORD, HELP US GET THROUGH THESE DAYS

~Perry Tarksley

Some day when we look back
We'll see how great God's love
Makes every day a stepping stone
To bring us HOME above.

Some day when we look back
This theme will be our song:
"Good days, bad days –
they're stepping stones
To get us where we belong."

Some day when we look back
On troubled days and blest,
We'll shout,
"God used our troubled days
To get us to His best."

Some day we'll sing in Heaven,
"Our days were stepping stones.
Dark days and fair –
God sent them all
To bring His children HOME."

Submitted by Betty Chatfield



Late Spring Worship at FPC Greenlawn



On Sunday, May 22, our guest Minister was Dr. Donald T. Russo. His sermon title was “What Does God Really Want? The congregation really enjoyed his leadership and message; we look forward to having him return in July.

May 29 was Memorial Day Weekend. We had a patriotic Service remembering those who died in service to our country. Pastor Ann was recovering from COVID, so she e-mailed her Service and sermon to Debbie Eitel, who filled in on very short notice. Thank you, Debbie. “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Christian Church, was celebrated on June 5. On that day, we also celebrated our music ministry with soloists and choir anthems, and a special guest appearance by baritone soloist Peter Osterman.

On June 12, while Pastor Ann and Bob attended the UCC NY Conference Annual Meeting, Rev. Kevin Ford, Associate Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cutchogue, was our guest Minister. His sermon was titled, “Mess Up, but Still in God’s Hands.” A big “Amen” goes out to “Rev. Kev.”

(Below, Guest Soloist Peter Osterman)



Upcoming Worship

June 19 is Father’s Day. We will be honoring our fathers with photos on the Communion Table and special gifts for all the men in the church.

On June 26, Pastor Ann’s sermon is titled, “Being a Christian – Not As Easy As You Would Think.” The Minute for Mission will be delivered by Beth Del Giudice, Case Management Supervisor at Long Island Youth Mentoring.

July 3 is part of Independence Day Weekend, and the Service will be patriotic in nature.

On July 10, we will unpack the parable of the Good Samaritan with a sermon about what it means to be a good neighbor.

Dr. Don Russo returns to us as guest preacher on July 17 to share a message of faith.

New Worship Time July 3 – September 4:

10:00 a.m.

Just as we did last summer, we will move our worship time to 10:00 a.m. July 3 through September 4 inclusive. (As much as we would like to move the time to 9:30, we have to take pity on Pastor Ann, who has a 65-mile commute each Sunday.)



Once the weather gets hot, we will move to our air-conditioned parlor, where we can enjoy an intimate worship setting in comfort. And yes, we *will* be having coffee hour!



Presbyterian Church Pentecost Offering

With everything that was going on in late May and early June, we were unable to receive the Pentecost Offering on June 5. Instead, we will receive it on June 26. Please be generous.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Our 40% will be shared with Long Island Youth Mentoring, a favorite charity of ours.

Church Growth

By: Pastor Ann

My denomination, The United Church of Christ, requires that Clergy take 25 hours of Continuing education every year. While I was at the New York Conference Annual Meeting last week, I took advantage of an opportunity to attend a workshop on church growth. Here are some highlights from the notes I took.

- Your church isn't going to grow simply because you want it to. You must develop a written Church Growth Plan, and then implement it.
- The reason you want your church to grow shouldn't be about money. It should be about bringing people to God through Jesus Christ.
- Is your church willing to invest time, effort, resources, and money toward the goal of church growth?
- What we do inside the church on Sunday morning does not necessarily lead to church growth. It's what we do *outside* the church walls that will bring people in.
- Ask each church committee to put one additional event on their calendar that is about church growth.
- Take a good look at your surrounding community. What are the demographics? The social hubs? The community needs?
- What kind of "competition" is there for people's time on Sunday mornings? In other words, what other choices does your community have on a Sunday morning?
- What is the community's perception of your church?
- Where do people in your community tend to gather? (Fire department, golf course, coffee shop, etc.) Can some of your church members become part of those organizations?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of your church?
- Do you have an "elevator speech" (25 words or so) prepared for when people ask you about your church?
- When some unexpected money comes in, certainly save part of it. But use some of it to strengthen your existing ministry in the area of community outreach.

- When there is a large community activity, are you a part of it? The very least you can do is give out water bottles!
- Other outreach ideas: literacy, building homes, Halloween activities, day camp, ESL classes, scholarships.
- Do you have a slogan? "The little church with a big heart," for example?
- Is your slogan on a banner outside your church?
- When you participate in a community activity, wear your church T-shirts so you get noticed! (And be sure to have your elevator speech ready.)
- Sponsor a Little League team. (The church name will be on their uniforms.)
- Be willing to give up things that aren't working. Don't continue to do something because "Mrs. Jones will be upset if we stop."
- Church growth is a process, and not just one meeting.

Your thoughts?

Our Session

Recording Clerk

Susan Perrotta

Class of 2023

Diane Kirchhoff

Gary Prentiss

Class of 2024

Arlissa Dean

Kathleen Gerlach

Craig Satterlee

Class of 2025

Debbie Eitel

Larry Foray

Susan Perrotta

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef – Pastor
Leonora Colletti – Director of Music and
Administrative Assistant
Debbie Eitel – Fellowship Director
Gary Prentiss – Custodian
James Dean – Treasurer
Betty Chatfield – Financial Secretary
Susan Perrotta – Benevolence Secretary
Irene Lang – Webmaster
Larry Foray – Building Use Manager



Me in 2019: If I could just have a week with nowhere to go and nothing to do, I could get my house in order.

Me in 2022: Nope. That wasn't the problem.

You'd think that the part of the brain that used to remember phone numbers would take over remembering passwords! But Noooo!

Some days I do several loads of laundry, clean the kitchen, make the bed, mop the floors, and have dinner ready on time.

Other days I eat a package of Oreos and call it a day.

It's all about having balance.

Why do eggs come in flimsy Styrofoam cartons, and batteries come in a package only a chainsaw can open?

Apparently, you can't use "beefstew" as a password. It's not stroganoff.

How do people go to sleep as soon as they close their eyes? It takes me 3 hours, 11 pillow flips, 7 different positions, 2 trips to the bathroom, and a partridge in a pear tree.

Why I like retirement!

Q: How many days in a week?

A: 6 Saturdays and 1 Sunday.

Q: When is a retiree's bedtime?

A: Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

Q: How many retirees does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Only one, but it might take all day.

Q: What is the biggest gripe of retirees?

A: Not enough time to get everything done.

Q: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

A: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Q: Among retirees what's considered formal attire?

A: Tied shoes.

Celebrating our 150th Anniversary

On Sunday, May 8, we held a Congregational Meeting to discuss ways to celebrate our 150th Anniversary. Some of the suggestions were:

- Commemorative lapel pins
- A Peace Pole
- Gala Anniversary Luncheon at the Moose Hall on Sunday, October 23
- Anniversary journal
- Booklet of memories
- Update our timeline
- Photos of church activities through the years printed on the Sunday bulletins, including Flowered Cross and Living Nativity
- A fashion show of clothing styles over the past 150 years
- A time capsule
- Music at the Anniversary Luncheon
- A hymn fest – hymns through the ages
- Inviting former Pastors and former members
- Invite the SpiritLifters
- A group photograph
- Coverage by News 12
- 150th Anniversary banner in front of the church

A Task Force will be organized to sift through these ideas. Please see Pastor Ann if you are interested.



Church Theatre Outing

Peter Osterman, our wonderful soloist on Pentecost Sunday, will be performing the lead role (Sir Lancelot) in *Camelot* on Saturday, June 25, at 8 p.m. at Heckscher Park, Rainbow Stage, Huntington. Admission is free.

We are going to gather in the church parking lot that day at 5:15 p.m. to carpool and leave for the park at 5:30. Bring your dinner and beverages with you, as well as a lawn chair plus snacks to share during the show.

Please see Pastor Ann or Debbie Eitel if you are interested.