



The Steeple Chimes

The E-Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
497 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn, NY 11740

631-261-2150 www.greenlawnpresbyterianchurch.org

FaceBook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Greenlawn

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Pastor

October, 2021

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

One would think that those who work for the Lord would never need a vacation. After all, working for God is energizing and exciting! That's true, but we are mere mortals, and once in a while we need a change of scenery.

A few years ago, Bob and I were able to cross something off of our "bucket list" - we took a tour of some National Parks in the western part of the United States. Bob had been there as a young college graduate, but this was my first trip. (Spoiler alert – it was a great trip. If you have not already seen them, put those National Parks on your "bucket list.")

For me, the sights I saw just reaffirmed evidence of the existence of God. "Old Faithful" in Yellowstone really does gush faithfully. In Grand Teton National Park, we visited an Episcopal chapel that had a picture window behind the altar. That view of the mountains was more beautiful than anything a stained-glass window could have depicted.

Arches National Park, with its natural sandstone arches, is truly a wonder. Monument Valley, with its buttes and mesas reaching a thousand feet above the Colorado Valley floor, was breathtaking. The Grand Canyon is aptly named, and is most beautiful at sunset. I liked Bryce Canyon best of all, with its *hoodoos* in various shades of pink and orange resembling the pipes of an organ. And Zion National Park, named so by the Mormons, was certainly a place of peace and refuge, as its Hebrew name implies.

A very interesting part of our trip was the weekend we spent in Salt Lake City at Temple Square. Bob and I spent an entire Saturday at the Mormon Family History Center researching our respective families, and came away with some new information for our family tree. (You are probably aware that the Mormons believe in Baptism by proxy, so when one joins the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, there is an opportunity to have deceased relatives baptized into the church as well. You may not be aware that the Mormons open their genealogical research facilities to non-Mormons at no charge.) On Sunday, we had an opportunity to attend a performance of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, which was a thrill!

There are beliefs in Latter Day Saints theology with which I don't agree. There are also practices that I admire. One of those practices concerns volunteerism. A good and faithful Mormon (I'm not talking about extremists) will give about ten hours a week in volunteer work to his/her local congregation, called a "ward." We saw this in action on the Saturday morning we were there. We had been impressed with the lovely flower gardens in Temple Square. But rather than let the flowers die and go to seed (it was October), scores of people arrived armed with black trash bags, pulled the flowers out of the gardens, and loaded them into a huge



Dumpster. By noon, people and flowers had disappeared, the gardens had been raked, and the sidewalks swept. “Now *that’s* what I call a church clean-up day,” I said to Bob.

Truth be told, we do have three or four volunteers here at FPCG who put in those kinds of hours. I am grateful to *all* of our volunteers who work for God’s Kingdom.

As Paul said in his second letter to Timothy, “I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience ... when I remember you constantly in my prayers. I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you ... for God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power and love and self-control.”

We’re off to a wonderful start in our 2021-2022 program year, and there is more to come. Have a blessed October, and enjoy the beauty of the fall season.

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 October 24, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is: **835 5895 3973**. **Passcode: 054861**

October 31 through December 5, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is: **896 9114 5321**. **Passcode: 215989**

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 2.)

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



Birthday Blessings!

October 7 – Ann Beck
October 10 – Dawn Polcer
October 19 – Julie Hago
October 20 – Arlissa Dean
October 26 – Nancy MacIntyre
October 27 – James Dean
October 30 – Helen Kozlowski
October 31 – Kathleen Gerlach
October 31 Susan Perrotta



Prayer Corner

HALLOWEEN GRACE

~Margaret Anne Huffman

*Amidst hobgoblins and pranksters, Lord,
we seek a quiet corner this autumn evening,
to give thanks for the saints whose day this really is.
Be tolerant of our commercialized, costumed fun,
even as you remind us of the pillars
of faith upon whose shoulders we stand today.
Keep our trick-or-treating fun, clean, and safe,
our faith memories aware,
for it is too easy to lose track of what we really
celebrate in the darkness of this night.*

DEEPLY ROOTED

The happiness which brings enduring worth to life
is not the superficial happiness
that is dependent on circumstances.
It is the happiness and contentment
that fills the soul even in the midst of the most
distressing of circumstances
and the most bitter environment.
It is the kind of happiness that grins
when things go wrong and smiles through the tears.
The happiness for which our souls ache
is one undisturbed by success or failure,
one which will root deeply inside us
and give inward relaxation, peace, and contentment,
no matter what the surface problems may be.
That kind of happiness stands
in need of no outward stimulus.

-Billy Graham

*"God has given each of you some special abilities;
be sure to use them to help each other, passing on
to others God's many kinds of blessings."*

1 Peter 4:10 LB

Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose
and direction.

~John F. Kennedy

The more you give, the more you get,
The more you laugh, the less you fret,
The more you do unselfishly,
The more you live abundantly—
The more of everything you share,
The more you'll always have to spare.
The more you love, the more you'll find
That life is good and friends are kind.

~Helen Steiner Rice

*When written in Chinese, the word "crisis" is
composed of two characters. One represents
danger and the other represents opportunity.
~ John F. Kennedy*

*May we never confuse honest dissent with disloyal
subversion.*

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

*In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters
of principle, stand like a rock.*

~ Thomas Jefferson

*You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow
by evading it today.*

~ Abraham Lincoln

*Whenever you do a thing, act as if all the world
were watching.*

~ Thomas Jefferson

*Don't expect to build up the weak by pulling down
the strong.*

~Calvin Coolidge

Submitted by Betty Chatfield

Join our Tuesday On-Line Fellowship Group

Ron Lievendag has organized an on-line
fellowship group for people who don't get out much
and would like a chance to visit on Tuesdays at
1p.m. Zoom in or call **1-646-558-8656**.

Now through October 19:

Meeting ID: 890 6070 9625 Passcode: 422463

October 25 – December 5

Meeting ID: 892 8564 8280 Passcode: 029614



September Worship at FPC Greenlawn

On Sunday, September 5, we observed Labor Day Weekend with a sermon titled "Do We Work Too Hard?" (The answer is Yes. We work much too hard.) We celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

September 12 was the day after the 20th anniversary of the events of 9/11. The theme of the service was "We Remember." We had a guest speaker, Mr. James Reams of Bethpage, NY, who spoke of his experiences as a 9/11 survivor.

The theme of our September 19 celebration of worship was "A Less-Than-Perfect Instrument in the Hands of God." God can take us imperfect beings and turn us into something we could never imagine we could be. After worship, we had a special Rally Day Brunch, hosted by several members of Session.

On September 26, we explored the concept of being "Called by God."

Tentative October Worship Themes

October 3 is World Communion Sunday. We will celebrate The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper along with people from across the globe. At 1:00 that afternoon, we will hold our Blessing of the Pets Service.

On October 10, the sermon is titled, "An Answer to a Question." Come to church and find out what that question is!

Our theme for October 17 is "Seeing, and Yet, Not Seeing."

The Stewardship Sermon will be delivered on October 24, which will kick off our stewardship campaign.

On October 31, we will celebrate All Saints Day. Or Reformation Sunday. Or both!

Blessing of the Pets

Mark your calendar! We will hold our Blessing of the Pets Service on the back lawn of the church on Sunday, October 3, at 1:00 p.m.

If it rains, the Pet Blessing will be held the following Sunday, October 10.

Please help spread the word.



Memorial Service for Steve Siegman

Linda Siegmman, our former church secretary, has asked us to announce that the Memorial Service for her late husband, Steve, will take place on Sunday, October 3, at 2:00 p.m. at The First Presbyterian Church of Northport.

Steve died on May 23, 2020, but the family was unable to hold funeral services due to the pandemic.

The First Presbyterian Church of Northport is located at 300 Main Street, Northport, New York. Parking is available behind the church.



Choir Rehearsals to Begin

Our popular Women's Choir will sing on "Thanksgiving Sunday," November 21, and again on "Lessons and Carols Sunday," December 19. We have ten members, but would love to have more. The only requirement for new members is the ability to sing on pitch. Please see Pastor Ann or Leonora Colletti if you would like to join. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, October 10.

Remembering Your Church

In last month's issue of The Steeple Chimes, we wrote about a bequest we received from the estate of John Everett Dodge, a former member of our church.

Christians are called to be good stewards of their property, both now and even after passing. Have you given consideration to making a commitment to the Lord for future ministry in Christ's name?



Laity Sunday

Our church will hold a Laity Sunday on November 14. During Laity Sunday, the Pastor gets to sit in the congregation, while members and friends of the church run the service.

George Santos will be our preacher that day. We do need people willing to do other parts of the Service (read Scripture, say prayers, etc.) Are there any volunteers? Please see Pastor Ann.

Stewardship

This year, we will kick off our Stewardship Campaign on October 24.

Whether we gather for worship inside our Sanctuary or on Zoom, we continue to be the Body of Christ through our ministries, our witness, and our care for one another.

This is not a time to pull back in fear, but to support one another, love our neighbor, and lean into the promises of God, like never before.

Now, more than ever, we ask you to pledge generously to support our life and ministry.



Missions Committee Spotlight: **Christian Appalachian Project**

The Missions Committee is focusing on five charities this year, in addition to our four Presbyterian offerings. Two are local charities (Huntington Hands Rescue Mission and Harry Chapin's Long Island Cares); one is a local youth project (Long Island Youth Mentoring); one is a national charity (Christian Appalachian Project); and one is international (Mercy Ships).

This article focuses on our national charity: Christian Appalachian Project.

For over 50 years, Christian Appalachian project (CAP) has served the people of Appalachia by building hope, transforming lives, and sharing Christ's love.

Their work started when Rev. Ralph Beiting, a Catholic Priest from northern Kentucky, was assigned to pastor a large portion of east-central Kentucky. Through his outreach, he witnessed tremendous poverty in Appalachia. He saw children weak from hunger, families beaten down by hardship, seniors living in fear and isolation, and communities desperate for hope.

With the help of family and friends, he provided food, clothing, and other essentials to neighbors in need. What started small quickly grew, and Christian Appalachian Project was founded in 1964.

Through donor support, dedicated volunteers, and a selfless staff, CAP now touches the lives of more than one million people each year. By working with other local food banks and humanitarian service providers, their reach extends to parts of all 13 states in the Appalachian region, including Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Each life that is lifted up reflects Christ's love and the generous spirit of their supporters. More information is available on www.christianapp.org.

Buildings and Grounds Update

Buildings and Grounds co-chairs Bob Arelt and Larry Foray have reported that the following projects are being worked on by the Buildings and Grounds Committee:

- The snow removal contract is being bid upon.
- The church heating system annual maintenance has been scheduled.
- Several emergency lights need replacing. This work will be done in October.
- Roof repairs on the portico and hall roofs were done on August 13. These repairs have corrected the leaking that was taking place.
- Handrails for the portico steps have been ordered, and will be installed shortly.
- Electrical repairs, including portico lighting, are being scheduled.
- CE Hall ceiling fans are being replaced.
- Estimates to seal coat the parking lot are being reviewed. Mike Pennino has offered to do the re-striping at no cost to the church.
- A Fall Cleanup Day will be scheduled shortly.

Many thanks to Bob Arelt, Larry Foray, and the hard-working Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Our September 12th Guest Speaker:

Mr. James (Jim) Reams

Jim Reams was our guest speaker at our “We Remember” Service, observing the events of September 11, 2001.

Jim spent much of his career as a commodities trader in Building # 4 of the World Trade Center. He witnessed the events of 9/11 first-hand, and had a compelling story to tell. The moral of his story was “Life is short. Don’t sweat the small stuff.”



Now retired, Jim lives in Bethpage with his wife, Barbara, and his two young adult children, Christopher and Lauren. (In the interest of full disclosure, Jim is also Pastor Ann’s cousin and friend!)

From Our Fellowship Director’s Kitchen:

Rally Day Punch

Our September 19th Rally Day Brunch was delicious. Many thanks go to Arlissa Dean, Debbie Eitel, Diane Kirchhoff, and George Santos for all of their hard work in preparing this treat for us.

Debbie’s “Rally Day Punch” was a big hit. Here is her recipe:

- 1 64 oz bottle of 50% less sugar orange juice (you could use regular OJ, I just happened to buy the lower sugar OJ)
- 1 64 oz bottle of white grape juice
- 1 2-liter bottle of 7-Up soda
- 1 16-oz. (1 lb.) bag of strawberries
- 1 16-oz (1 lb.) bag of peaches

(Target sells the frozen fruit “Good & Gather;” it’s their own brand name product)



It was surprisingly tasty, not too sweet, and a little tart. The frozen fruit helps to keep the punch cold without watering it down.

The original recipe was just for the punch - I added the frozen fruit instead of making a fruit & juice ring mold. It was just quicker and easier

Our Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2021

Betty Chatfield
Debbie Eitel
Ruth Satterlee

Class of 2022

Diane Kirchhoff
Gary Prentiss
George Santos

Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach

An Outdoor Christmas Tree

At its August meeting, our Session approved the purchase of a blue spruce (or similar) tree to serve as an outdoor Christmas tree. On the Friday or Saturday before Christmas, we will hold a community Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, followed by hot chocolate and Christmas cookies in the Narthex. This event will be our gift to the community. Watch the November issue of *The Steeple Chimes* for further details. (Pictured is a similar tree from a neighboring church.)



World Communion Sunday

Our congregation will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 3.

World Communion Sunday, originally called World Wide Communion Sunday, was originated in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, by Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr in 1933.

1933 was the darkest year of the Great Depression. The clouds of Nazism and Fascism hovered all over Europe. The prevailing mood was anxiety – fear about economics, fear about politics, and fear about the future. As a faith response to these fears, Dr. Kerr and the leaders of his congregation sought to do something both real and symbolic to proclaim that God is God, indeed.

Dr. Kerr and the congregation leaders conceived the idea of a Communion service that followed daylight as it traveled around the globe. The concept spread slowly at first, but was firmly established by World War II.

When we all share the Meal where Christ is our host, we are connected in ways that transcend boundaries of geography and language. Around the Table, we broadcast our faith to the world and say, “Come and dine; there is room for all.”



Laughter is the Best Medicine



Being a little older, I’m very fortunate to have someone call and check on me every day. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty

I read that, by law, you have to turn on your headlights when it’s raining in Sweden. How the heck am I supposed to know if it’s raining in Sweden?

My kids wanted to know what it was like for me growing up. So, I took their phones, shut off the Internet, gave them a popsicle, and told them to go outside until the streetlights came on.

I need to re-home a dog. It’s a small terrier, and tends to bark a lot. If you’re interested, let me know and I’ll jump over my neighbor’s fence and get it for you.

Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day. Teach a man to garden, and the whole neighborhood gets zucchini!

Clothes too dirty for the closet but too clean for the laundry: welcome to the CHAIR!

Energizer bunny arrested. Charged with battery.

Four stages of a man’s life:

1. You believe in Santa.
2. You don’t believe in Santa.
3. You are Santa.
4. You look like Santa.

This is a shout out to everyone who got through the day without taking a nap.

I pulled an all-dayer today. It was pretty tough.

Church Fair Wrap-Up

Our Church Fair was a huge success. We're not sure how it fared (ouch) compared to other years, but this year we grossed \$3,600.

We had 33 vendors, and the church had yard sale tables, gift baskets to raffle off, and some wonderful food.

Naming individuals who helped is difficult, because there is always a danger that someone will be left out. We had helpers stand for applause at our September 26 Celebration of Worship, and again, we want to thank each and every person who helped in any way.

Special thanks to Larry Foray, who chaired the fair. He worked about 40 hours a week on this fair during the month of September, and spent many, many hours on this project in June, July, and August.

Please enjoy these photos taken at the Fair.



Leonora Colletti (l) and Kathy Rodriguez (r) sold masks. Kathleen Remauro (center) served as Larry Foray's assistant.



Larry Foray chaired the event.



Longtime member, Bob Eitel, enjoyed seeing old friends. Daughter, Linda Raxon, was delighted to have her Dad come to the Fair.



Gary and Lydia Mott sold jewelry that Lydia had made.



Betty Chatfield kept the yard sale merchandise moving.



Larry Reinhardt served as a cashier.



Deanna Mott and Susan Perrotta made sure no one went hungry.



Bob Van Cleef thought he was through with KP when he was discharged from the Army!



Arlissa Dean and Diane Kirchhoff kept the food hot and our guests happy.



Kathie Gerlach ran the gift basket raffle with lots of skill and a big smile.



Debbie Eitel and the SpiritLifters certainly lifted everyone's spirits at the Church Fair.