



The Steeple Chimes

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

Early Summer, 2023

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

Well, I survived The Great Floor Refinishing Project of 2023!

It was what I called a “mushroom project.” You know what I mean. It starts out with changing the shelf paper in the kitchen cabinets, and ends up having an addition put on the house.

Okay. I exaggerate. This project started out by our needing to have the kitchen floor refinished. Then came the realization that the kitchen floor would not match the floors in the adjoining rooms, so those floors would have to be refinished as well. But the furniture would first need to be moved, which means that tabletops, drawers, and shelves would have to be cleared. Start packing and call the local moving company! And of course, we couldn't be in the house during the sanding and refinishing, so we needed to figure out how not to be home for a week.

Oh, but it wasn't over after the floor guys left. Even though they cleaned up after themselves, there was still a fine layer of wood dust everywhere. EVERYWHERE! On the walls, the windows, and even in the rooms that had been closed off with plastic sheeting. Two solid days of wiping down walls, washing windows, and taking down dusty cobwebs that I had not realized were there. Only then could the movers put the furniture back, and I could start emptying boxes of tchotchkes.

I'm pleased with the way everything looks, and, despite the difficulties, it was worth it.

My journey as a Christian (and I'm sure yours as well) follows a similar path. Accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior – it's easy at the beginning. But the journey itself? We never realized that there would be alienation of people who don't agree with our beliefs. It's difficult to resist the temptation to submit to practices that are contrary to Jesus' teachings. It's hard to refuse to invest in things that bring harm to others, and to change things that will cause people to give up comfort and wealth. Realistically, living the Christian life has the potential to divide us from the rest of the world. But the reward of Eternal Life makes the journey worthwhile.

Jesus stresses the importance of participating in a worshipping community of like-minded people. I came across this tongue-in-cheek piece that, in its own way, speaks of the importance of worshipping in community. I hope you enjoy it!



Ten Reasons Why I Never Wash

In one church, the Pastor, apparently fed up with all of the excuses given over the years as to why people don't go to church, applied the same excuses in a different context to show how silly they were. Church-goers the following Sunday got a bulletin that included "Ten Reasons Why I Never Wash."

- (1) I was forced to wash as a child.
- (2) People who wash are hypocrites – they think they are cleaner than everybody else.
- (3) There are so many different kinds of soap, I can't decide which one is best.
- (4) I used to wash, but I got bored and stopped.
- (5) I wash only on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
- (6) None of my friends wash.
- (7) I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
- (8) I can't spare the time.
- (9) The bathroom is never warm enough in winter or cool enough in summer.
- (10) People who make soap are only after your money.

Have a blessed summer. We'll be worshipping at 10:00 a.m. in our air-conditioned Parlor. See you in church!

With love and blessings,

Pastor Ann



Birthday Blessings

July 6 – Barbara Small
July 9 – Rev. Fred Woodward
July 12 – John Eric Proctor
July 28 – Tatiana Crosby

August 3 – Bill D'Andrea
August 3 – Lydia Mott
August 14 – Leonora Knight
August 17 – Maria Hottinger
August 23 – Briana Rexon

September 2 – Rev. Ann Van Cleef
September 7 – Bob Eitel
September 7 – Mildred Bachmann
September 11 – Meg Lawrence
September 14 – Benjamin Dean
September 14 – Leonora Colletti
September 19 – Jill Wilson
September 20 – Gary Mott
September 20 – Olivia Buatsi
September 23 – David Hammer
September 24 – Alex Kirchhoff



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 9:30 a.m. for our 10:00 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 early summer?

Now through July 23, inclusive:

The **Meeting ID** is **818 7100 4026**. The **Passcode** is **882513**

July 30 through September 10, inclusive:

The **Meeting ID** is **858 4673 9514**. The **Passcode** is **500219**

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.



May 14: Mother's Day. We honored and remembered those special women in our life.

May 21: We unpacked Jesus' desire "That They May Be One."

May 28: This was be a blended Service – Pentecost and Memorial Day. John Eyre returned as our guest organist.

June 4: Trinity Sunday. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated. We explored the theology of the Holy Trinity

June 11: Music Ministries Sunday. The choir sang, and most of the liturgy was sung by the choir or the congregation.

June 18: Father's Day. Pastor Ann was on Continuing Education Leave. Rev. Stephanie (Sevi) Regis preached. Caterina Rasizzi sang a beautiful rendition of "O Mio Babbino Caro."

June 25: We unpacked Matthew 10:24-35, an extremely uncomfortable text for many. Jesus shows us how to stand up for what we believe.

Upcoming Services and tentative themes:

July 2: Independence Day Sunday. This Service will have a patriotic flavor. Communion will be served.

July 9: Matthew 11:16-19. Jesus turns the concept of winning vs. losing upside-down.

July 16: Pastor Ann is taking a vacation day. Dr. Don Russo will preach.

July 23: Genesis 28 and Matthew 13. We will explore how we learn from stories in the Bible.

July 30: What is the Kingdom of God like? We will take a deep dive into some of Jesus' parables.

August 6: How much do we need? We will talk about want as opposed to need. Communion will be served.

August 13: Pastor Ann is taking a vacation day. Glenn Rubin will preach.

August 20: "When Kindred Live Together in Unity." The title says it all.

August 27: Our annual "Home Runs and Re-runs" Service. The congregation will vote on which sermon they would like to hear again.



Prayer Corner

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord;
Happy are the people he has chosen for this own!
Psalms 33:12 Good News

God of Truth and Justice, we ask Your blessing
on our nation. Thank you for the freedoms we
enjoy, especially those we take for granted. Thank
You for the diversity of our people and enlarge our
capacity for tolerance and mutual respect.

*Freedom is what we have—Christ has set us free!
Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow
yourselves to become slaves again. Galatians 5:1*

Dear God, You are wise and loving,
You are great and strong;
Glad when we do right, grieved when we do wrong,
Father God, my Father, guide me every hour;
Keep me safe
and shield me from temptation's power.
Amen

Go on your way in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good.
Render to no man evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help and cheer the sick.
Honor all men.
Love and serve the Lord.
May the blessing of God be upon you
and remain with you forever.
~Gloucester Cathedral Wall

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

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

BE THE BEST OF WHATEVER YOU ARE
~Douglas Malloch
IF YOU CAN'T BE a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley — but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass —
But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here,
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,
And the task you must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail —
Be the best of whatever you are!

INHERITANCE ~Rufus M. Jones

I am most of all thankful for my birthplace and
early nurture in the warm atmosphere of a
spiritually-minded home, with a manifest touch of
saintliness in it; thankful indeed that from the cradle
I was saturated with the Bible and immersed in an
environment of religion of experience and reality.
It was a peculiar grace that I was born into that
great inheritance of spiritual wisdom and faith,
accumulated through generations of devotion and
sacrificial love. I can never be grateful enough for
what was done for me by my progenitors before I
came on the scene. They produced the spiritual
atmosphere of my youth. I became heir of a vast
invisible inheritance. There is nothing I would
exchange for that.

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

~ Submitted by Betty Chatfield

Honor Thy Mother and Father

For Mother's Day and Father's Day, we have a lovely tradition in our church of placing photos of our mothers, fathers, and other important people in our lives on the Communion Table. We thank God for making these people an important part of our lives.



Churchyard Clean-up and Flower Planting

The original plan was to do our churchyard cleanup and flower planting on Earth Day Sunday. Sadly, the weather did not cooperate. Several weeks later, on May 21, the weather was much nicer, and we got a lot of outdoor work done. Many thanks to all of our volunteers!



Gary and Lydia Mott hard at work!

Memorial Day and Pentecost

This year, Memorial Day Sunday and Pentecost Sunday fell on the same day. We had a blended Service, which paid homage to both events. We are grateful to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom. And, we thank Jesus for sending us the Holy Spirit, the Helper, who constantly inspire us to do God's will.



Our New Refrigerator

Thank you to everyone who contributed funds for the purchase of a new refrigerator for our church kitchen. It will be purchased and installed during the month of July.

Because of your generosity, we are able to pay a plumber to install it for us. Furthermore, we have enough money to repair the small handwashing sink in the kitchen.

Music Ministries Recognition Sunday

Our worship is greatly enhanced by music. On June 11, we paid homage to those who provide that music for us, particularly Leonora Knight, our Worship Accompanist, and our Choir, which sings four times a year. The Service was a musical one, with much of the liturgy sung by the Choir, the Congregation, and Soloist Debbie Eitel. We thank these hardworking and talented people for their gifts of music.



The Little Food Pantry

The Little Food Pantry continues to be a blessing to our community. Many thanks to Louise Miller for filling the pantry twice a week when needed, while Kathie Gerlach was healing from her knee replacement surgery.

Many thanks also go to Paul and Claire Proctor for putting a fresh coat of white paint on the food pantry last week. It looks like new again.

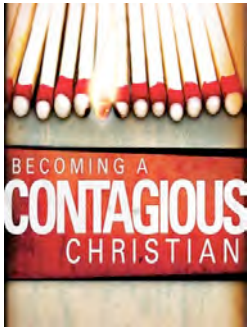


We are in need of canned tuna and chicken, cereal, pasta and spaghetti, Chef Boy-R-Dee ravioli, canned fruit: peaches, pears, plums, mandarin oranges, mixed fruit, (no applesauce), rice, and peanut butter and jelly.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Becoming a Contagious Christian

This spring, several of our Session members took a 6-week class, “Becoming a Contagious Christian,” with Bill Becker as instructor. Everyone agreed that they walked away with some great ideas on how to share their faith.



Bill will be offering the class again this fall to anyone in the congregation who is interested. It will take place for six Sundays after coffee hour. Please see Bill to sign up.

Mark Your Calendar

Our annual Church Get-together at the Greenport Parsonage will take place on Saturday, August 5, at 3:00 p.m. More information will be e-mailed soon.

Our annual Church Fair will take place on Saturday, September 23, with a rain date of Saturday, September 30. This is an “All Hands-on-Deck” event. Please see Larry Foray to tell him how you can help.

Our Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean
Kathie Gerlach
Craig Satterlee

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss

From the Pastor’s Kitchen

I haven’t written this column in a while because I ran out of recipes. But recently, Bob and I ate at a friend’s house, who served us a wonderful “comfort food” dinner of tuna noodle casserole and coleslaw. Here is the tuna noodle casserole recipe.

Ingredients:

- 2 cans tuna, drained
- 2 cans Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 soup can of milk
- 6 cups cooked macaroni
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- ½ package of frozen peas
- 3 cups French fried onions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
Spray a Pyrex baking dish with Pam
Boil the macaroni until it’s “al dente.”
Drain macaroni, place it in a large bowl
Stir in soup, tuna, milk, peas, and cheese
Dump it all into the Pyrex baking dish
Bake for 45 minutes or until bubbly
Take out of oven
Sprinkle French fried onions on top
Bake for another 10 minutes





Laughter is the Best Medicine

A very weird thing has happened. A strange old lady has moved into my house. I have no idea who she is, where she came from, or how she got in. I certainly didn't invite her. All I know is that one day she wasn't there, and the next day she was.

She's very clever. She manages to keep out of sight for the most part, but whenever I pass a mirror, I catch a glimpse of her, and when I look into a mirror directly to check on my appearance, suddenly she's hogging the whole thing, completely obliterating my gorgeous face and body.

It's very disconcerting. I've tried screaming at her to leave, but she just screams back. She's really rather frightening. If she's going to hang around, the least she could do is offer to pay rent. But no. Every once in a while I do find a couple of dollar bills on the kitchen counter, or some loose change on my bureau, but that certainly isn't enough.

Though I don't like to jump to conclusions, I think she steals money from me quite regularly. I go to the ATM and withdraw a hundred dollars, and a few days later it's gone. I certainly don't go through it that fast, so I can only conclude that the old lady pilfers it. You'd think she'd spend some it on wrinkle cream. Heaven knows she needs it.

Money isn't the only thing she's taking. Food seems to disappear too, especially the good stuff – ice cream, cookies, candy ... I just can't seem to keep them in the house. She really has a sweet tooth. She should watch it; she's putting on the pounds. I think she realizes that, and to make herself feel better, I know she's tampering with my scale so I'll think that I'm gaining weight, too. For an old lady, she's really quite childish. She also gets into my closets when I'm not home and alters all my clothes. They're getting tighter every day.

Another thing: I wish she'd stop messing with the files and papers on my desk. I can't find a thing any more. This is very hard to deal with because I'm extremely neat and organized, but she manages

to jumble everything up so nothing is where it's supposed to be.

Furthermore, when I program my TV to record something important, she fiddles with it so it records the wrong channel or shuts off completely.

She finds innumerable, imaginative ways to irritate me. She gets to my newspapers, magazines, and mail before me and blurs all the print. And she's done something sinister with the volume controls on my TV, radio, and phone. Now all I hear are mumbles and whispers. She's also made my stairs steeper, my vacuum cleaner heavier, all my knobs and faucets hard to turn, and my bed higher and a real challenge to climb in and out of.

Furthermore, she gets to my groceries as soon as I shelve them and applies glue to the tops of every jar and bottle so they're just about impossible to open. Is this any way to repay my hospitality?

I don't even get any respite at night. More than once her snoring has awakened me. I don't know why she can't do something about that.

As if all this isn't bad enough, she is no longer confining her malevolence to the house. She's now found a way to sneak into my car with me and follow me wherever I go. I can see her reflection in store windows as I pass, and she's taken all the fun out of clothes shopping because her penchant for monopolizing mirrors has extended to dressing rooms. When I try something on, she dons an identical outfit – which looks ridiculous on her – and then stands directly in front of me so I can't see how great it looks on me.

I thought she couldn't get any meaner than that, but yesterday she proved me wrong. She had the nerve to come with me when I went to have some passport pictures taken, and she actually stepped in front of the camera just as the shutter clicked. Disaster! I have never seen such a terrible picture. How can I do abroad now? No customs official is ever going to believe that the crone scowling from my passport is me.

She's walking on very thin ice. If she keeps this up, I swear, I'll put her in a home. On second thought, I shouldn't be too hasty. First, I think I'll check with the IRS and see if I can claim her as a dependent.

– by Rose Madeline Mula (1997)