



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, 2021

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

In the past two issues of *The Steeple Chimes*, I have been discussing the *Building Abrahamic Partnerships (BAP)* class that I took at Hartford Seminary. Today, I'll continue that conversation, focusing on what I learned about Judaism.

I was surprised to learn that there are only about 14 – 16 million Jews in the world today, as opposed to the one billion Christians and one billion Muslims. Just prior to World War II, there were 18 million Jews. When the war was over, only 12 million remained.

If one's mother is Jewish, one is considered to be Jewish, even if one does not practice Judaism. This is called matrilineal order. If a person's father is Jewish, but not the mother, that person would have to convert in order to practice Judaism. However, Reform Jews now acknowledge patrilineal order for "Jewishness."

I learned a new term: Reconstructionist Judaism. It's an outgrowth of Conservative Judaism, and it encourages some traditional practices, including keeping kosher and observing the Sabbath. Reconstructionist, Reform, and Conservative Synagogues may have female Rabbis. Orthodox Synagogues do not.

I had always thought that the Hasidic Jews were very "heady," intellectual Jews. Actually, the Hasidic movement was started in Eastern Europe in the mid-1700s, in response to an intellectual movement. Its followers introduced ecstasy, joy, and emotion into their practices, and were linked to Jewish mysticism. Now they have found a niche teaching secular Jews. And the curls? That's because it says in Leviticus 19:27, "You shall not shave around the sides of your head, nor shall you disfigure the edges of your beard."

The class had a good discussion about keeping the Sabbath (called the Shabbat), which starts from sundown on Friday and ends on sunset on Saturday. Our instructor, Professor Yeheskel Landau, called it a "separation of time for an island of spiritual existence," and a "once-a-week booster shot." I'll say "Amen" to that. Sabbath-keeping is something we can learn from our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Historically, the Jews had no land to call their own after the destruction of the Jewish kingdom by the Romans in 70 AD, when the conquered land was renamed Palestine. After WWI, Palestine became a British Protectorate until continuing turmoil forced them to yield their hold, and independence was granted to the Jewish State by vote of the UN on April 29, 1949 (now known as Israel Independence Day). One of our instructors said, "The land is an integral part of what it means to be Jewish – a place to call home where we can feel safe."



On the Saturday that our class met, we attended a service at a local Synagogue. On this particular day, there was a Bar Mitzvah during the service. It was a blessing to be part of that joy. The high point for me during the Bar Mitzvah was when the Torah was handed down symbolically from the great-grandparents to the Bar Mitzvah, a young man named Matthew, who paraded it around the Sanctuary followed by his family. People were touching the Torah with their prayer shawls or their prayer books, and then kissing the object that had touched the Torah. I did so too – I was so taken up in the moment. Then the family broke into a spontaneous dance of joy in the back of the Sanctuary while Matthew continued to walk the Torah around. I was in tears.

Then, something happened that seemed very strange to me. The congregation started doing a responsive prayer in Hebrew, and I found myself reciting the responses. Without the prayer book. *In Hebrew!* A language I *do not* speak! It took me a few responses to even realize what I was doing. Hey! What's going on here?

I suppose I can intellectualize about it and say that my musician's ear was enabling me to listen to the Hebrew and repeat it about 1/10 of a second behind everyone else. Or, I can respond on an emotional level and say that perhaps the Holy Spirit was making it possible for me to speak in tongues (which is something we of the Reformed faith don't really do), and even though I probably wasn't getting all the words right, God was still hearing my prayer.

Like the father who admonished his son to "Remember where you came from" as the boy took off for life in the big city, we Christians, too, need to remember where we come from. Our roots include over 3,700 years of Jewish history before Christ walked this planet.

Let us always remember that God chose to come to Earth to live as a Jewish carpenter. And because this Jewish carpenter lived among us, suffered, died, and rose from the dead, we may now experience Eternal Life in the Kingdom which has been prepared for us.

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.; worship begins promptly at 10:30. 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.

Now through July 18, inclusive, **the Meeting ID is: 925 8111 6844. The Passcode is: 723828.** If you are on the church e-mail list, you will get a weekly e-mail with the Zoom link. If you don't have a computer or a Smartphone, you may still "Zoom in" by calling the following number: **1-646-558-8656.** You will be asked for a meeting ID and passcode. (Please see paragraph 2.) You won't be able to see us, but you can still hear what's going on.



Birthday Blessings!

June 11 – Michael Chatfield
June 18 – Gary Prentiss
June 20 – Michelle Perrotta
June 22 – Frances Woodward
June 23 – June Spence
June 23 – Andrew Segale
June 24 – Craig Satterlee



Prayer Corner

"Fifth Commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."
- Ex 20:12

Dear Father in Heaven,

I thank You for having made me a parent. I pray that You help me fully to realize my parental responsibility and the privilege of rearing children for You.

O Lord, You know that, like others, Christian parents may become fearful when they think of their responsibility to provide for the body and soul of a child, and to keep that child on the way of salvation. Forgive me when I become fearful. Supply all my needs, and help me to perform my work in child training cheerfully and effectively.

Give my children intelligent and responsive minds, and grant that I may always teach them what is right and good. Make them receptive to Your Word. Grant them the grace to receive it with joy and to believe in Your saving love. Amen.

GUARD IT WISELY ~ Edgar A. Guest

You got it from your father,
It was all he had to give.
So it's yours to use and cherish,
For as long as you shall live.
If you lose the watch he gave you,
It can always be replaced.
But a black mark on your name, son,
Can never be erased.

It was clean the day you took it,
And a worthy name to bear.
When he got it from his father,
There was no dishonor there.
So, make sure you guard it wisely,
For when all is said and done,
You'll be glad your name is spotless
When you give it to your son.

ONLY A DAD ~ Edgar A. Guest

Only a dad with a tired face,
Coming home from the daily race.
Bringing little of gold or fame,
To show how well he has played the game,
But glad in his heart that his own rejoice
To see him come and to hear his voice.

Only a dad with a brood of four,
One of ten million men or more,
Plodding along in the daily strife,
Bearing the whips and scorns of life,
With never a whimper of pain or hate,
For the sake of those who at home await.

Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,
Merely one of the surging crowd,
Toiling, striving from day to day,
Facing whatever may come his way,
Silent, whenever the harsh condemn,
And bearing it all for the love of them.

Only a dad, but he gives his all
To smooth the way for his children small.
Doing, with courage stern and grim,
The deeds that his father did for him.
This is the line that for him I pen:
Only a dad, but the best of men.

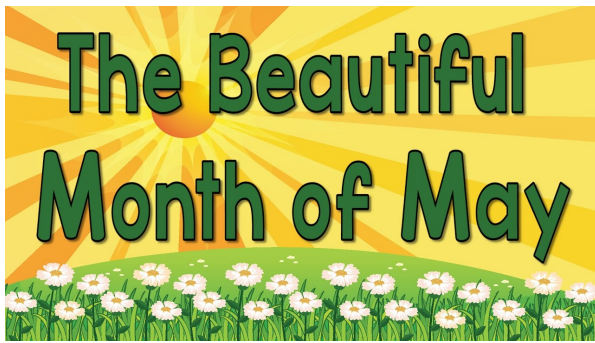
"My son, keep your father's commands, and do not forsake your mother's teaching. ~ Pr 6:20

"I talk and talk and talk, and I haven't taught people in 50 years what my father taught by example in one week." ~Mario Cuomo

"Train up a child in the way which he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it"
~ Pr 22:6

Lord, make my life a window for Your light to shine through, and a mirror to reflect Your love to all I meet. ~Robert Harold Schuller

Submitted by Betty Chatfield



May Worship at FPC Greenlawn

On May 2, we celebrated The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The sermon was called "A Parable of a Grape Arbor." Our vines and branches must be carefully tended if we are to serve the Lord.

May 9 was Mother's Day. We placed photos of mothers, grandmothers, and other special women on the Communion Table. Each woman was given a pink carnation at the end of the Service. The sermon was titled, "Mothers from the Bible."

On May 16, we talked about using our gifts for the good of the Body of Christ.

May 23 was Pentecost Sunday, and we had a wonderful celebration. (See photos on pp 5 & 6.)

On May 30, we remembered those who died serving their country with a solemn, patriotic service.



Worship Themes for June

On June 6, we will celebrate The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The sermon will deal with rules vs. love and grace.

June 13, it will be our joy to baptize Avery Ann Sanchez, daughter of Matthew Sanchez and Marissa Bianculli. During the sermon, we will unpack the term, "Ordinary Time."

June 20 is Father's Day. We will honor the men in our midst with a special Father's Day service.

On June 27, we will delve into the need to trust Jesus.

We Celebrate Our Fathers

Father's Day, June 20, is the day we honor fathers as well as all men who have had an influence on our lives and the lives of children. That includes grandfathers, uncles, cousins, coaches, teachers, Scout leaders, neighbors, and anyone else whom we may have forgotten.

We are asking everyone to bring a photo of their father (or any other special man) and place it on the Communion Table prior to the Service. As we leave church that day, all men are encouraged to take one of the special gifts that we will have for you.

Thank you, gentlemen, for all that you do for God's Creation. Happy Father's Day, and may God bless you abundantly!



The Pentecost Offering

Thank you to everyone who supported our Pentecost Offering. The "bean counters" have not reported back yet; we will let you know the final numbers next month.

40% of the offering will be retained by our church, and will be given to Long Island Youth Mentoring. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Jim Dean speaks of his experiences as a volunteer with Long Island Youth Mentoring.

Life at FPC Greenlawn



On Mother's Day, we honored our mothers and other special women in our lives by placing their photographs on the Communion Table.



Our newly-formed Women's Choir sang "River in Judea" on Pentecost Sunday.



We remembered those who died serving our country on Memorial Day Sunday



After 6 weeks, \$140 in supplies, and daily watering, we are three to four weeks away from enjoying a single 25¢ vegetable from our garden.

According to a recent study, 7 out of 10 people don't notice when a word in a sentence is replaced by a musical instrument.

I bumped into an old friend this morning. I didn't recognize him without his mask.

We keep a potato masher in a drawer because sometimes it's fun to not be able to open that drawer.

I do all my own stunts, but never intentionally.

Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done!

Don't worry about getting older. You're still gonna do dumb stuff, only slower.

I'm just going to flip this omelet here annnnddd... I'm having scrambled eggs!

Cop: You were going fast.

Me: I was just trying to keep up with the traffic.

Cop: There isn't any traffic.

Me: I know! That's how far behind I am!

You never know what I have up my sleeve. Today, for example, it was a dryer sheet.



Special Music on Pentecost Sunday



*Baritone Peter Osterman sings
"The Lord's Prayer"*



Alto Debbie Eitel sings "Cornerstone."



*Flutist Leslie Strait opens the Pentecost Service
with C.P.E. Bach's "Andante Cantabile"*



*Ann Van Cleef and Peter Osterman sing Cesar
Franck's "Panis Angelicus"*

*Many thanks to Leonora Colletti, who served as
accompanist for our choir and soloists.*



Here is an update on the activities of the Missions Committee during the month of May:

- The revised One Great Hour of Sharing offering came to \$1,103.84. Many thanks to the congregation for your generosity.
- The Missions Committee met on Friday, May 7, with Kathie Gerlach (chair), Barbara Charnews, and Rev. Ann Van Cleef present.
- The Presbyterian Church National Offices in Louisville sent us information on the Pentecost Offering, which included brochures, envelopes, and offering boxes. Brochures were put in the bulletins on May 9 and 16. Envelopes were put in the bulletins on May 16 and 23.
- 40% of the Pentecost Offering may be retained by the local church. We will round that up from the Missions budget to the next \$100, and give it to the Long Island Youth Mentoring Program. Jim Dean, who has been a Youth Mentor for many years, gave a Minute for Mission on May 23.
- We will put an envelope into the bulletin the last Sunday of each month in order to boost our Missions budget.
- We re-evaluated the charities and projects that our church supports, and want to diversify our giving, so that we are supporting projects from Huntington Town, Long Island, the US, and overseas. Furthermore, we intend to spread our giving so that it covers youth, hunger, education, and medical. The following projects were proposed, but no specific amounts were talked about:

Huntington Helping Hands Rescue Mission
Harry Chapin's Long Island Cares
The Christian Appalachian Project
Mercy Ships
Long Island Youth Mentoring

From the Pastor's Kitchen:
Lolly's Stuffed Pork Chops
(My Dad's Favorite!)

Who is Lolly, you might ask? That was my mother's nickname. Her given name was Mary Johanna. Mary Jo. Family folklore has it that as a toddler, she said to my grandfather, "Me lollypop." "Isn't that cute!" my grandparents said. "She thinks her name is Lollypop!" The name stuck, and was eventually shortened to Lolly.



Actually, the poor kid was just asking for a lollypop. I wonder if she ever got one?

Ingredients:

Your favorite stuffing
An even number of boneless pork chops
String

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Make the stuffing. (You can cheat and use Stovetop.) Mom always used Pepperidge Farm.

Put a raw pork chop on a plate. Take a handful of stuffing and spread it on the pork chop, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch high. Put another pork chop on top. The result will be something that looks like a pork chop and stuffing sandwich.



Tie the "sandwich" together with a piece of string. Put the "sandwich" on a broiler pan (or a rack that fits over a pan)

and bake uncovered for 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the thickness of the pork chops. Check the progress occasionally – you don't want the meat to dry out.

Note: This is one of the easiest things in the world to make. If you use thick, juicy pork chops, the fat will drip down into the stuffing. Yum!

Our family loved this main dish when I was growing up. Of course, in those days, we didn't worry about things like cholesterol. My Dad used to joke that the last step was to throw out the pork chop and eat the string!

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

Coffee Hour!

We held a coffee hour on Pentecost Sunday, and it worked well for us. We will try to have coffee hour every week, using COVID-19 protocols.



Family Table Grace

For food to eat and those who prepare it;
For health to enjoy it and friends to share it;
Thank you, Heavenly Father. Amen.

Vision Team

Our Mission:

RETAIN our current members.
RECONNECT with former members.
REACH OUT to potential new members

The next meeting of the Vision Team will take place on Sunday, June 6, after church in the Parlor. Everyone is invited to attend.