



# *The Steeple Chimes*

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

*March – April, 2024*

## *Pastor's Message*

My Beloved Church Family,

A newcomer to our church recently remarked, “This church may be small, but you certainly do a lot of things!

That statement is very true. Just in the past 2-1/2 months, we have had a New Year’s celebration, several soup suppers, a Valentine’s Day celebration, a St. Patrick’s Day Dinner, and installed a new refrigerator.

Hmmmm. There’s a common denominator there, isn’t there. This is a congregation that loves food!

We love our music, too. We adore our hymns, our choir is singing more often than in the past, Leonora Knight treats us to beautiful piano music every Sunday morning, and Larry Foray has brought his karaoke machine to coffee hour several times for sing-alongs.

There is one thing missing, though, and that’s our church organ. To use an old cowboy expression, our 52-year-old Allen organ “bit the dust.”

Mozart praised the organ, writing “In my eyes and ears ... the king of instruments.” We do have a lovely medium grand piano in our Sanctuary, but let’s face it, there is nothing like the sound of an organ leading a congregation in the singing of hymns. “Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee ...”

I do have some good news. Most of you already know about it, but for those who don’t – we are taking steps to purchase a new organ.

With the help of a dear friend of our church, Frances C. Roberts, we will be hosting a series of three concerts featuring first-class musicians, and we have high hopes that these concerts will raise enough money to purchase an organ within a year. Fran will be conducting one concert and accompanying the other two. The concerts will take place in our beautiful Sanctuary; the schedule is as follows:

**Sunday, June 9, 3:00 p.m.**

"Craig Schulman on Broadway"

**Sunday, October 27, 3:00 p.m.**

"Brahms - A German Requiem"

by the Greater Huntington Festival Chorus

Frances C. Roberts, Conductor



**Sunday, November 17, 3:00 p.m.**  
"Baroque to Broadway (With a Few Stops In Between)"  
With Barbara Fusco and Melissa Maravell

I am very excited about this project, not only because we are going to purchase a new organ, but also because we will be hosting several top-notch musicians that you would normally have to drive into New York City to hear.

There is a separate article in this edition of *The Steeple Chimes* about our June 9<sup>th</sup> concert, featuring Broadway star and Commack native Craig Schulman.

Frances Roberts, Marian Adams, and I have formed a committee to organize these concerts, but we can't do it by ourselves. How can you help? First, I hope that you will buy a ticket and attend these concerts yourself. And secondly, we will be asking you to tell everyone you know who loves good music about these concerts. It would be wonderful to fill the church Sanctuary with music lovers who want to be a part of our organ project!

*Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all the earth. – Psalm 96:1*

With love and blessings,

*Pastor Ann*

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**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 is the Meeting ID?**

Good news! We were able to program ZOOM so that the log-on information is the same now through the last Sunday in June. Hooray! **Meeting ID: 820 9580 8348 Passcode: 128114**

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 4.)

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



## Birthday Blessings

March 16 – Diane Kirchhoff

April 8 – Genevieve Dean

April 15 – Timothy Dean

April 15 – Diane Hartmann

April 27 – Valerie Prentiss

April 27 – Bob Arelt

May 6 – Gloria Arelt

May 11 – Barbara Charnews

May 12 – Simone Pennino

May 16 – Laurence Foray

May 17 – Christopher Perrotta

May 18 – Daniel Charnews

May 20 – Peggy Monitto

May 21 – Jane Longstreet

May 27 – Paul Proctor



### Announcing our June 9<sup>th</sup> Concert

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn proudly presents “Craig Schulman on Broadway,” the first in a series of concerts to raise funds to purchase a new organ for the church.

Craig Schulman is the only performer in the world to have performed three of the most extraordinary musical theatre characters ever written. He has appeared in the title roles of *Jekyll & Hyde*, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *The Phantom of the Opera*, and nearly 2,000 performances of Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*, on Broadway and around the world.

He was chosen to represent the U.S. at the *Les Miserables* Tenth Anniversary Concert at Royal Albert

Hall, which can often be seen on the PBS broadcast of the event. He has played Che in *Eita*, Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden*.

Mr. Schulman moves freely between the worlds on Broadway, opera, and symphonic pops programs. He has sung Don Jose in *Carmen*, Judge Danforth in *The Crucible*, and Einstein in *Die Fledermaus*. Other important roles include Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, and Hoffman in *Tales of Hoffman*. Television credits include singing on *The Rosie O’Donnell Show*, *NBC Weekend Today*, and *Guiding Light*.

The concert will take place in our Sanctuary on Sunday, June 9, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will range from \$40 to \$65, with student tickets at \$25. (The \$65 ticket includes seating in the front, and an after-concert reception, including a Question-and-Answer Meet-and-Greet with Mr. Schulman.) Please see Pastor Ann for tickets; they will be sold to the general public shortly.



# Prayer Corner

A Lenten Prayer  
music by Robert J. Powell

Lord, I ask a blessing for my soul today;  
Give me peace from heaven  
as I kneel and pray.  
Forty days did Jesus face temptation strong;  
Give me strength to conquer  
knowing right from wrong.

Lord, I ask a blessing for my soul today;  
Give me peace from heaven  
as I kneel and pray.  
I would be like Jesus turning from all sin,  
With His love to keep me true  
and faithful within.

Lord, I ask a blessing for my soul today;  
Give me peace from heaven  
as I kneel and pray.  
When I look to Jesus, He will show the way;  
Help me come to meet Him pure  
on Easter Day.

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“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

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Lord, grant me a heart of compassion  
so burdened for others’ needs,  
that I will show them Your mercy  
in attitudes, words, and deeds.

~Fitzhugh

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*A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

~Proverbs 15:1

BE A PERSON  
~Harry Emerson Fosdick

What Jesus Christ would say to us if he should  
speak to us in audible voice now would be  
something like this:

*Be a person. Be a real person. Stand on your  
own feet. Do not be pushed about by passing fads.  
Live by an inward light. Be true to an inward  
loyalty. If skepticism divides the church, vulgarity  
discolors social living, the profit motive makes  
industry often cruel, and nationalism blockades the  
way to peace, do not yes, yes the situation. Have a  
conscience of your own and, when in private life the  
clamor of public custom grows very loud, do you  
grow quiet, quiet enough to hear the beat and catch  
the rhythm of that inward drum.*

HUMBLE TASKS  
~Helen Keller

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it  
is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as  
though they were great and noble. The world is  
moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its  
heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes  
of each honest worker.

Submitted by Betty Chatfield

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## An Inspiring Bible Verse for Lent

**Matthew 6:16-18 – Keep a Secret**

*“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the  
hypocrites...But when you fast, anoint your head  
and wash your face, that your fasting may not be  
seen by others but by your Father who is in secret.  
And your Father who sees in secret will reward  
you.”*

No need to tell everybody what you’ve given up  
for Lent – if you’ve given up anything. Keep it in  
secret. It’s a secret between you and God. What  
could be more powerful than a secret like that?

~Guideposts Magazine



March 3: We unpacked the commandment to “Keep Holy the Lord’s Day.” The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated.

March 10: We learned of the parallels between Numbers 21:4-9, where Moses is instructed to make a snake and put it up on a pole so the Israelites can look at and live, and John 3:16, where we look up to Jesus on the Cross, believe, and live.

March 17: Jeremiah 31:31-34. Jeremiah is normally a rather dour prophet. However, his message about a New Covenant is good news, not only for the people of Israel and Judah, but for us as well.

March 24: Palm Sunday. We celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

March 28: We will observe Maundy Thursday at 5:00 p.m. with the traditional Candle-Extinguishing Service and Communion.

March 31: Easter Sunday. We celebrate Christ’s glorious Resurrection. The story never gets old; indeed, it gives us much hope and joy.

April 7: A friend of mine always tells me, “The opposite of faith isn’t doubt. The opposite of faith is certainty.” Why? Because if we are certain about something, then we don’t need faith, do we? Doubting Thomas always gets a bad rap, but the truth is he was a very faithful person. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated.

April 14: “The Road to Emmaus.” The fact that Jesus rose from the dead is undoubtedly the greatest miracle in all of human history.

April 21: We leave the Lectionary for a week and observe Earth Day with a Service called “Thanking God for the Gift of the Earth.”

April 28: Because of our Earth Day Service, we missed “Good Shepherd Sunday,” which is traditionally three weeks after Easter. Therefore, we will use the Lectionary readings for April 21, and celebrate “Good Shepherd Sunday” a week late.

### Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday’s 10:30 morning Service commemorates Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with people chanting “Hosanna” and waving palm branches. We will bless palm branches and encourage

people to take them home.

### Maundy Thursday

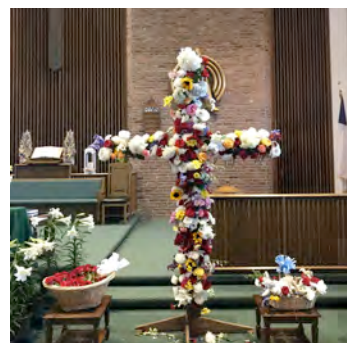
“Maundy” is the English form of the Latin word meaning “commandment.” Jesus’ commandment, to “love one another even as I have loved you,” is the focus of Maundy Thursday.

Our 5 p.m. Service will include The Liturgy of Washing, The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, and the traditional Tenebrae with the extinguishing of the lights.

### Good Friday

For those who would like to attend a Good Friday Service, both Old First Presbyterian (125 Main Street, Huntington) and Bethany Presbyterian (425 Maplewood Road, Huntington Station) will be holding Services that night at 7:00.

### Easter Sunday



On Sunday, March 31, at 10:30 a.m., we will celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and triumph over death with a joyful Service of Worship. The choir will sing, the congregation will sing beloved Easter hymns,

and we will celebrate our traditional Flowering of the Cross.

### Easter Flowers



Once again, we have the opportunity to dedicate Easter flowers in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The flowers are \$12 each, and the choices are: tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and Easter lilies. You may send your check to the church office (497 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn, NY 11740). Please include a note telling us your name, what flowers you want, and to whom they are dedicated. Checks may be made out to FPC Greenlawn. Thank you.



### Got Junk?

Our Spring Indoor Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, April 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you have been meaning to have your own yard sale but don't think you have enough "stuff," do we have a deal for you! Set up a table in our main floor hallway *or* in our CE Hall, display your wares, and sell, sell, sell!

What's your cost? A tithe. If you make \$50 that day, your space rental will be \$5. If you make \$200, you'll pay us \$20. In other words, you get to keep 90%. That's what tithing is all about.

The only "vendors" will be church members and friends. We will not be opening this up to professionals. And, we will do all of the publicity for you.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get rid of some of your "clutter" and make a few dollars in the process! Please see Pastor Ann to reserve a space.

### St. Patrick's Day Dinner

On Saturday, March 9, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day in style with a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner, Irish dances by the fabulous Mulvihill – Lynch Irish Dancers, and songs with DJ Larry "O'Foray." 45 attendees had a wonderful time.

Many thanks to organizer Priscilla Jahier and her committee: Debbie Eitel, Susan Perrotta, Rosalie Schweighardt, Ann Van Cleef, and Jill Wilson,





**Valentine’s Day**

On Sunday, February 11, we celebrated Valentine’s Day (a bit early). During Coffee Hour, “DJ Larry” brought in his karaoke machine, and we enjoyed singing love songs to one another.

Who says church can’t be fun!



*Peggy, Debbie, and Larry singing Karaoke.*

**Lenten Soup Suppers**

Our Lenten Soup Suppers, sadly, have been discontinued. Many of our people don’t like to drive at night; consequently, attendance has been very low. We are working on ideas to do something else for Lent, 2025. Stay tuned!

**RMDs**

RMD – Required Minimum Distribution. For those who have invested money for their “old age,” your RMD is a two-edged sword. True, it’s nice to have the extra income, but taxes must be paid on withdrawals, and those withdrawals are *required* after you have reached a certain age.

You can lower your tax obligation by paying your church pledge with your RMD. Your tax professional or investment fund manager can tell you how to do this.

You can support your church and lower your taxes at the same time. What a deal!

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

Once again, our church is participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing program on March 24.

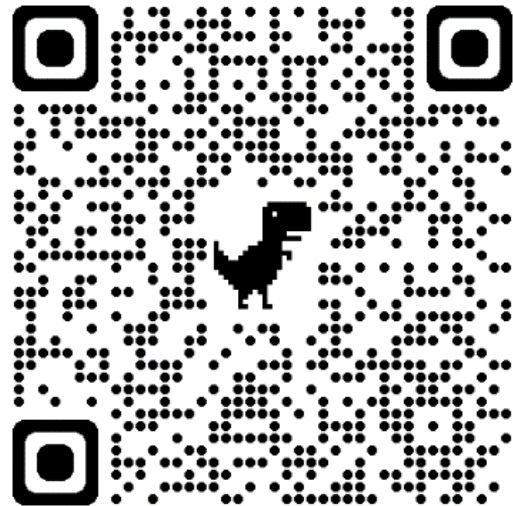
One third of your offering goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, one third to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and one third to the Self-Development of People Program.

When this program was started in 1949, the idea was for everyone to donate the equivalent of one hour’s worth of wages; hence the title “One Great Hour of Sharing.” Now people are simply asked to give whatever they choose.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Church QR Code**

Yes, we’re making our way into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This past week, we acquired a QR code. Simply put your cell phone into camera mode, hold it up to the funny little square thing (no need to take a photo), and the link to our church website should pop up. We will be updating our website within the next week or so. Stay tuned!



**The Session**

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2024  
Debbie Eitel  
Larry Foray  
Susan Perrotta

Class of 2025  
Marian Adams  
Bill Becker  
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2026  
Arlissa Dean  
Kathleen Gerlach



## Laughter is the Best Medicine

As a kid, I was so proud when someone said, “You’ve gotten so big since I saw you last!”

As an adult, not so much.

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It amazes me how much “exercise” and “extra fries” sound alike.

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You know you’re getting old when you look at the clock to see if it’s late enough to go to bed.

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Phones nowadays are so expensive, you fall and hear a crack sound and you pray it’s your leg.

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I accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach and now I’m the proud owner of aisle 4.

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The average human walks 900 miles per year and drinks 22 gallons of coffee. This means that the average human gets 41 miles per gallon.

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I’m at the age where my mind firmly believes I’m 29, my humor suggests I’m 12, and my body possibly died in the Civil War.

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The people who make fitted sheets need to sit down with the people who make mattresses and get on the same page. Making the bed shouldn’t be like putting a swimming cap over a refrigerator!

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When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery? Asking for a friend.

## From Rosalie’s Kitchen

Rosalie Schweighardt’s tortellini and kale soup was a big hit at one of our church suppers, and again at our St. Patrick’s Day coffee hour. She graciously shared her recipe with us.

## Rosalie’s Tortellini Soup

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 1 fennel bulb, diced
- ½ teaspoon sea salt, plus more to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 3½ cups vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- ¼ to ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 9 to 12 ounces cheese tortellini, or vegan tortellini
- 5 cups torn kale
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley or basil

### Instructions

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion, carrots, fennel, salt, and a few grinds of black pepper and cook, stirring, until the vegetables begin to soften, about 8 minutes.

Add the balsamic vinegar, garlic, tomatoes, broth, thyme, and red pepper flakes. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender.

Meanwhile, cook the tortellini in a pot of salted boiling water according to the package directions until al dente. Add the tortellini and the kale to the soup and simmer for 2 more minutes.

Season to taste with about ¼ to ½ teaspoon more salt and a few generous grinds of pepper.

Serve in bowls and sprinkle with fresh parsley.

