



# *The Steeple Chimes*

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

*November, 2021*

## *Pastor's Message*

My Beloved Church Family,

Last year at this time, I asked four church members to stand at the pulpit during the Call to Offering, and tell our congregation what our church meant to them. Each testimony was excellent, and given a round of applause.

We're doing the same thing this year. October 24 was the first week. Betty Chatfield spoke; I found her speech so inspiring, that I asked her for permission to publish it in *The Steeple Chimes*. It's reprinted below; I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

With love and blessings,

*Pastor Ann*



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## **Church Is the People ... People Are the Church**

By: Betty Chatfield

I've been blessed to have grown up in a church where my grandfather was pastor. I went to Sunday School and sang in the youth choir. I was surrounded by loving, caring people who knew right from wrong, respect for others, and weren't afraid to let me know when I was stepping over the line. Worshipping at churches around the country I've found them filled with likeminded 'brothers' and 'sisters' in Christ. **I learned this at Church.**

Slowly I've grown in faith without even realizing. The constant (and needed) reassurance of sermons and the lessons they provide; attending Bible studies; hearing and sharing experiences with others; those things have calmed me, realizing that I'm not the only one who needs help. There have been so many people who helped me 'see the Light' either by their words, actions or deeds. They were 'planting seeds;' most didn't even know it. People here, my sister included, encouraged me not to be afraid of failure, saying: "If I do well...great ...if I don't do well...I may be helping others realize they could do better." I've been able to see that we all have different gifts and don't always see things in the same way ... and that's OK. It's reassuring knowing I don't have to agree 100% with everyone. **I learned this here at Church.**

Volunteering at events, serving on committees, becoming a Deacon, an Elder – these things showed me what joy can be obtained by serving. I've had the pleasure of helping others to discover their gifts and utilize their special God-given talents. The discernment I've gained from prayer groups, Bible studies and fellowship have helped me through rough spots, and reminds me to remain focused on the many blessings I do have. **I learned this here at Church.**

I've learned how to pray. I thought I knew this, but actually I learned to do it better, believe it or not. Hearing about the power of prayer; the power of a kind word; the power of saying to myself, "What would Jesus do;" the power of just listening; the power of helping someone cry, or the joy in helping someone celebrate! I've learned to be specific when I pray. Turning it all over to Jesus, knowing my burden has been lifted as I put my prayers and my worries into God's hands. **I learned this here at Church.**

Gradually, the meaning of the lyrics to the hymns I've sung took root in my soul and lifted me up time and time again. It's been a saving grace to me (and I would suspect to my family and relations as well). Many of these lyrics are actually scriptures put to music. Who wouldn't gain strength, courage, peace and understanding listening to so many of these great hymns? Believe it or not, I read from old hymnals at home. I've ministered to others frequently, and sometimes not knowing what to say, I've read the words of these hymns to folks who were in pain. I've encouraged people going through difficult times to recite the refrains to something familiar. When my son Robert's youngest child, Mckenna, was prematurely born, she had to be transferred to a neonatal ICU in a different hospital than her mom's. Robert, hoping to reassure his newborn, reached into the incubator trying to soothe her. He said he didn't know what to do, but he just started singing "Silent Night! Holy Night!" and "Jesus Loves Me" to her over and over. **He learned this here at Church.** (BTW Mckenna was born in March, is now 10 years old, and is the picture of health.)

I've always prayed that more people would sing or say the words to the hymns on Sunday. You get to see the works: say the words and hear the words all at the same time. What a blessing this has turned out to be in my life! These hymns lift me up and calm me down. And frequently, they have become my prayers, said in far better words than I could ever come up with. **I hear these hymns/prayers here at Church.**

Thank God I live in America where I was free to learn the Golden Rule and the teachings of Jesus. I pray we never take this freedom for granted.

**I LEARNED THIS ALL AT CHURCH.    *Thank God!***

### **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?**

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 3.)

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



## **Birthday Blessings**

Nov. 1 – Debbie Eitel  
Nov. 6 – Claire Proctor  
Nov. 9 – Michael Pennino

Nov. 9 – Maria Francis-Henry  
Nov. 29 – Geri Milk





Order Your  
**Poinsettias**

It's that time of year again.  
Orders are now being taken for the Christmas Flower Memorials.  
If you wish to place an order, please fill in the order form below.

Given By:

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In Loving Memory Of:

---

In Honor Of:

---

Cost: \$12 each

Number of flowers ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Please check one of the following:

- I will pick up my flowers after 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
 I will pick up my flowers after Sunday, December 26 Service  
 Donate to a shut-in member

Deadline: Sunday, November 28

Please make checks payable to the Church and specify for "Flower Fund."

This form may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, or mailed to the church office:

FPC Greenlawn / 497 Pulaski Road / Greenlawn, NY 11740 Thank you!



# Prayer Corner

*“Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect.”*  
~1 Peter 3:15b-16 GNB

*“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

*“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”*  
~Matt 6:34 MSG

*“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”*  
~Martin Luther King Jr.

*“Live life with a due sense of responsibility, not as those who do not know the meaning of life but as those who do.”*  
~Eph. 5:15 PH

## RESOLUTION ~Mahatma Ghandi

Let our first act every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:  
I shall not fear anyone on earth.  
I shall fear only God.  
I shall not bear ill will toward anyone.  
I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.  
I shall conquer untruth by truth.  
And in resisting untruth,  
I shall put up with all suffering.

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.  
~Colin Powell

## THE AMERICAN’S CREED ~William Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America  
as a government of the people,  
by the people, for the people;  
Whose just powers are derived  
from the consent of the governed;  
A democracy in a republic, a sovereign nation  
of many sovereign states;  
A perfect union one and inseparable;  
Established upon those principles  
of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity  
for which American patriots  
sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country  
to love it, to support its Constitution,  
to obey its laws, to respect its flag,  
and to defend it against all enemies.

Two Inscriptions on the pillars flanking the steps to  
the National Archives:

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF  
LIBERTY  
~ and ~  
THE HERITAGE OF THE PAST  
IS THE SEED THAT BRINGS FORTH  
THE HARVEST OF THE FUTURE.

“The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work;  
second, stick-to-itiveness;  
third, common sense.”  
~Thomas A. Edison

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.  
~Vince Lombardi

The reason a lot of people do not recognize opportunity is because it usually goes around wearing overalls looking like hard work.  
~Thomas A. Edison

(Submitted by Betty Chatfield)



**Edward Charles Close  
(September 7, 1951 – October 4, 2021)**

Ed was born Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1951 in White Plains, NY. His Mom had the “pleasure” of parenting by herself, as his Dad was completing his tour as an anesthesiologist in a MASH unit in Korea. (When the movie M\*A\*S\*H came out in 1970, his family went to see it together. Needless to say, his Dad spent the next few weeks answering him Mom’s many questions.)

Once out of the service, they moved to Pennsylvania where Ed lived for his first 7 years.

His Dad was invited to take a job at Huntington Hospital. Accepting, Ed began his new life in Bay Hills, a magical place and time. Bay Hills had a wonderful beach club, and Ed was quite impressed with the water, but he had never learned to swim. He looked out at the float, which was about 50 yards from the beach, and thought it might as well have been 5 miles away, as he was certain he would never be able to swim well enough to reach it.



One year later he easily made the swim, and by 16 he became a lifeguard, which he enjoyed through his college years. He was also the King of *dibble dabble*, a water game, however he may have cheated, as he used to swim under the float which was against the rules as few had the skill.

At the same time, Ed became an avid fisherman, and spent many hours surf casting. When he wasn’t fishing, he was readying his gear for the next year. After college, he joined Traditional Surfcasters, a competitive club which is strictly catch and release. His mentor, Doc William Muller, took him under his wing, and made him the fisherman he became, and he remained a member until his death. He

enjoyed many years of fishing on Long Island and Cape Cod.

As evident throughout Ed’s life, he was not afraid of being challenged. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade he picked up a lacrosse stick for the first time, and in his senior year with Huntington HS Varsity, was voted the most valuable player. HHS’s record during his years spoke volumes.

Attending Ohio Wesleyan University, as did his Dad and his Grandfather, Ed continued lacrosse for the fighting Bishops to become a very valuable player earning the title of “Dirty Ed”. His Mom asked if that was because he did not bathe enough, and he assured her that was not the reason. The friends and times he forged during these years remained important throughout his life.

Graduating in 1973 with his bachelor’s degree, he became an insurance agent specializing in employee benefits. He worked for a number of years in NYC and finally joined Wright Insurance in Port Washington as a Vice President to eliminate the long commute. Ed finally retired in 2016, when he started facing health issues.

Ed always enjoyed a very close relationship with his family and is survived by his wife, Cathy, his sisters, Catherine and Cynthia (Kym), and his nephew, Bennett Edward. Ed’s Funeral Service took place on October 13 at our church, with Rev. Fred Woodward officiating. Interment took place at Huntington Rural Cemetery.

**Remembering Edward Close**

By Betty Chatfield

Ed was someone who wanted to contribute. He had something to offer, and he did. He was our church’s Assistant Treasurer and a valued member of our Finance Committee.

Anyone could see how Ed and his wife Cathy belonged together. I think God must have brought them together to help them both get through what could only be described as tough times ahead. Ed’s humor in dealing with what affected his body inspired me.

After hearing a reading of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and knowing what an avid fisherman Ed was his whole life I think Ed is not *‘resting beside still waters’* but he’s now fit as a fiddle, out of pain and fishing’. Fish in peace!



### **October Worship at FPC Greenlawn**

On Sunday, October 3, we celebrated World Communion Sunday in solidarity with Christians all over the globe. At 1:00 that afternoon, we held our annual outdoor Blessing of the Pets Service.

The October 10 sermon was titled, "An Answer to a Question." (The question was, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?")

Our theme for October 17 was "Seeing, and Yet, Not Seeing," where we were inspired by the faith of the blind Bartimaeus.

The stewardship sermon was delivered on October 24, which kicked off our annual stewardship campaign.

October 31 was All Saints Sunday. We remembered those saints who have passed on.



### **Tentative November Worship Themes**

November 7: We will hear about the widow's mite, and will celebrate The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

November 14: Laity Sunday with congregation members running the Service, and George Santos preaching.

November 21: Thanksgiving Sunday. The theme is "God Will Provide." The choir will sing.

November 28 is the First Sunday of Advent: "A Season of Hope."

### **Spring Forward, Fall Back**

Good news! You can "sleep in" for an extra hour on Sunday morning, November 7. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.



### **Stewardship**

This year, we kicked off our Stewardship Campaign on October 24. Pastor Ann delivered the stewardship sermon. This will be followed up with a letter and pledge cards mailed to members and friends in November.



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.

### **What This Church Means to Me**

Our *What This Church Means to Me* series of short talks began on October 24, with Betty Chatfield speaking. (pictured). You may read her talk on pages 1 and 2 of this edition. Future speakers include Kathie Gerlach (October 31) and Barbara Charnews



(November 7). We still need a speaker for November 14. Any volunteers?

## Tuesday Fellowship Group

Our Tuesday Zoom Fellowship Group got off to a slow start, but it's picking up speed!



Ron Lievendag organized this group as a fellowship opportunity for people who don't get out much, but would like an opportunity to visit with one another.

The group meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. The log-on information from now through December 5 is: **Meeting ID: 892 8564 8280 Passcode: 029614**

**1-646-558-8656.** is the call-in number for those who do not have access to a computer.

## Congregational Meeting

We will have a short meeting of the Congregation immediately after our Celebration of Worship on Sunday, November 14. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect new members of the Session. A proposed slate will be presented, with an opportunity to have nominations from the floor.

If the proposed slate is accepted, the 2022 Session will look like this: (officers to be elected are underlined)

### **Class of 2022**

Diane Kirchhoff  
Gary Prentiss  
George Santos

### **Class of 2023**

Arlissa Dean  
Kathleen Gerlach  
Craig Satterlee

### **Class of 2024**

Debbie Eitel  
Larry Foray  
Susan Perrotta

## Thanksgiving Luncheon – Sunday, November 14

On Sunday, November 14, instead of a coffee hour in the Narthex, there will be a Thanksgiving Luncheon, which will take place immediately after the Congregational Meeting.



Please make plans to attend and enjoy some food and fellowship with your church family. The feast will be prepared by our resident chef, Gary Prentiss. Thank you, Chef Gary!



## 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.

## Buildings and Grounds Update

- The Buildings and Grounds Committee continues to work on finding a snow removal contractor.
- Heating system maintenance on the church boilers has been completed.
- The replacement of emergency lighting has been completed. The repair of the portico lights is pending.
- We will ask our roofing contractor to inspect the Manse roof.
- Handrails for the portico steps have been installed.
- Although we won't be scheduling a Fall Cleanup Workday, people who are interested in doing some extra interior cleaning may contact Gary Prentiss.
- Replacement of CE Hall ceiling fans is still being worked on.
- CE Hall basement windows will be inspected.
- The Committee is looking into seal coating the back parking lot.





### Victorian Tea

On Saturday, December 4, our church will hold a 3-Course Victorian Tea, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the Narthex. Hats and gloves are encouraged; bring your own teacup and saucer if you wish.

Seating is limited, so pre-registration is required. A half table (2 persons) is \$50, and a full table (4 persons) is \$100.

Please contact the church office for a registration form. E-mail address is: [fpcgoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgoffice@gmail.com) Telephone number is: (631) 261-2150. Registration forms will also be available after worship on Sundays.



In conjunction with the Victorian Tea, our church will host a Christmas Fair and Wreath Sale on Saturday, December 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Fair will feature Christmas decorations, ornaments, one-of-a-kind gifts, and much more.

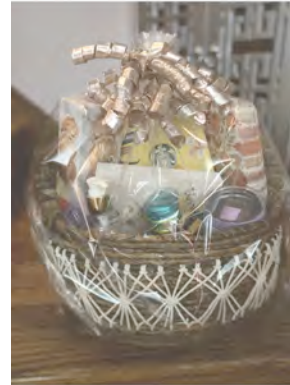
We are accepting contributions of Christmas items that you have stored at home that you haven't used in years. Additionally, if you have gifts you've received that you really don't like, we'll take them off your hands as well. We also need small decorations for wreaths. Contributions may be dropped off at church on Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Thank you!

### Christmas Tree Lighting

Did you see the small Christmas tree in our church front yard? (Don't worry, it will grow.) We are going to have a community Christmas Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 19, at 5 p.m. Mark your calendar. Further details will appear in the next edition of *The Steeple Chimes*.

### Life at Greenlawn Presbyterian

Pastor Ann would like to thank everyone for the lovely Pastor Appreciation Month celebration, and for the beautiful *Pastor Ann Survival Kit* gift basket.



### Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service will take place on Friday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Please spread the word. More information will be available in the next edition of *The Steeple Chimes*.

### Lessons and Carols Service

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Service will be held on Sunday, December 19, at 10:30 a.m. This Service will be based on the one at *The King's College* in Cambridge, England, where the nine lessons are read by representatives of the congregation and of the local community. Suggestions for community readers are welcome; please see Pastor Ann.



### 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  
Arliisa Dean  
Kathleen Gerlach





Whenever my spouse uses the phrase “I was thinking,” that means I either have to move, build, paint, or buy something.

Pro tip: Keep cake moist by eating it all in one sitting.

Sometimes I open my mouth and my mother comes out!

Those GPA-looking gas prices have got to go! \$3.89 is “summa cum laude” gas. I need some “academic probation” gas.

Today, I saved \$238.19 by not going to Costco for paper plates.

My friend Jack claims that he can communicate with vegetables. Jack and the beans talk.

The person who invented the Ferris wheel never met the person who invented the Merry go round. They traveled in different circles.

In the corn maze, I felt like I was being stalked. It was eerie.

It’s a shame that nothing is built in the USA any more. I just bought a TV and it said, “Built in Antenna.” I don’t even know where that is!

My favorite allergy song is “Blowin’ in the Wind” by Peter, Pollen, Mary.

I just fired myself from cleaning my house. I don’t like my attitude, and I got caught drinking on the job.

Do we even need Halloween anymore? I’ve been wearing a mask and eating candy for 14 months ...

My ducks are absolutely not in a row. At this point, I have no idea where my ducks even are!

### From the Pastor’s Kitchen

The policy regarding meals in our house is this: I’ll cook dinner, but you’re on your own for breakfast and lunch.

Several weeks ago, the Riverhead “No Doubt World Famous Monday Night Band” started rehearsals again. (Don’t be fooled by the title. *Newsday* called us “The Rolls Royce of Community Bands.” Concert is Sunday, November 7, 2 p.m., free admission, at the Pulaski Street School, Riverhead, NY)

But I digress. I wanted to attend Monday night rehearsals, but I also wanted to live up to my end of the “I’ll cook dinner” bargain.

Bob loves chicken drumsticks, so, once every six or so weeks, I buy a family pack of drumsticks, broil them, and then freeze them. Bob can reheat them in the microwave or the toaster oven, and I can trot off to rehearsal without feeling guilty.

You can brush the drumsticks with olive oil, put a little salt and pepper on them, and put them in the oven at 400 degrees for an hour. Or, if you want to get fancy, this is what I sprinkle on them:

Mix the following in a small bowl:

- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly cracked pepper

Place 6-10 drumsticks on a cookie sheet. (Line the cookie sheet with tin foil to make cleanup easier.) Brush olive oil on each of the drumsticks. Sprinkle the above mixture on the drumsticks. Bake at 400 degrees for an hour. Eat one, then freeze the rest.

