



# *The Steeple Chimes*

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

*September, 2021*

## *Pastor's Message*

My Beloved Church Family,

If your summer has been anything like mine, then it was crazy, unpredictable, and much too short!

There are two vignettes from this summer that I'd like to share with you. They might not seem related at first, but I'll tie them together.

Number one. After sending out a general "y'all come" to a July gathering of church members and friends at the "Greenport Parsonage," Bob and I went into cleaning mode for about a week. Weeds got pulled, flowers planted, and a lot of things that had been taking up valuable real estate inside the house got stored or discarded. The place looked pretty good by party time.

Number two. A Sunday in Massachusetts. Bob and I had decided to worship at a United Church of Christ in a nearby town. But, when we arrived at the church, despite the signs around us proclaiming that everyone was welcome at their 10:00 Service, the doors were locked tight. Meanwhile, the Baptist church next door had open doors and someone standing outside waving us in. So, we became Baptists for the day. And, the following week, I received a hand-written note from the Baptist Minister, thanking us for attending, and acknowledging the gift we had put in the offering plate.



So, how do these two stories relate, and what do they have to do with us at FPC Greenlawn?

Mentally, I have classified my ministry here as 6 months of surviving COVID and learning how to function online, and then a year of governance reorganization and building upgrades. We have pretty much gotten our house in order. Now, we need to prepare ourselves for company.

When Bob and I readied our house for the church gathering, we walked through it as if for the first time, asking ourselves questions. "Does the toaster really need to sit on the counter?" "Yes it does, so let's wipe off the fingerprints." "What are we going to do with the pile of newspapers in the family room?" "It's time to give them the old heave-ho." "And those dead flowers on the dining room table?" "I guess they're not going to come back to life, are they? Into the compost pile they go."

We had become accustomed to the fingerprints, the newspapers, and the dead flowers. But those are not the kinds of things one wants to have on display for company.

On that Sunday in Massachusetts, we later learned that someone had forgotten to post a sign on the church door saying that the congregation was doing a combined worship with a neighboring church. But the open door on the Baptist Church next door and the person waving us in said, "Welcome. We want you to join us."

So, here is my question for the fall of 2021. Are we, as a church, ready for company?

True, we've made great progress in our local church governance and on the inside of our building. But, is there more that we can do? Have we walked through the building as if for the first time? Does the outside of our church say "Welcome! We want you to join us?" Are our doors open – literally? Do we have a system in place where we thank visitors for attending?

We, at FPC Greenlawn, are a kind and caring community of Christ. We want to reach out into the larger community to share our love of God and our love of one another. So, let's take a good look around us, and make absolutely sure that we're truly ready for company.

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 9:30 a.m.; **September 5 worship begins at 10:00**, as we are still on our summer schedule.

**On September 12, we go back to our 10:30 worship time**, so you may log on as early as 10:00.

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 September 5, inclusive, the **Meeting ID is: 967 6925 8690. Passcode: 648088**

September 12 through October 24, inclusive, the **Meeting ID is: 835 5895 3973. Passcode: 054861**

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!**

September 2 – Rev. Ann Van Cleef

September 7 – Robert Eitel

September 7 – Mildred Bachman

September 11 – Meg Lawrence

September 14 – Benjamin Dean

September 14 – Leonora Colletti

September 20 – Gary Mott

September 20 – Olivia Buatsi



# Prayer Corner

“You are never too old to set a new goal  
or dream a new dream.”

~C.S. Lewis

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*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

*Against such things there is no law.*

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus*

*have crucified the sinful nature*

*its passions and desires.*

*Since we live by the Spirit,*

*let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

*Let us not become conceited, provoking,  
and envying each other. ~Galatians 5:22-26 NIV*

## **COURAGE**

~Edgar Guest

Courage isn't a brilliant dash,

A daring deed in a moment's flash:

It isn't an instantaneous thing

Born of despair with a sudden spring.

But it's something deep in the soul of man

That is working always to serve some plan.

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## **PRAYER**

~Gail B. Burket

I do not ask to walk smooth paths  
nor bear an easy load.

I pray for strength and fortitude  
to climb the rock-strewn road.

Give me such courage I can scale  
the hardest peaks alone,  
And transform every stumbling block  
into a steppingstone.

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## **CELEBRATING LABOR DAY**

“If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates  
labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts  
America, yet fears labor, he is a fool.”

~ Abraham Lincoln

I believe in the dignity of labor, whether with head  
or hand; that the world owes no man a living but  
that it owes every man an opportunity to make a  
living. ~John D. Rockefeller

It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim  
energy and resolute courage, that we move on to  
better things. ~Theodore Roosevelt

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

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## **REPUTATION AND CHARACTER**

~William H. Davis

The circumstances amid which you live  
determine your reputation;

the truth you believe determines your character.

Reputation is what you are supposed to be;  
character is what you are.

Reputation is the photograph; character is the face.

Reputation comes over one from without;  
character grows up from within.

Reputation is what you have  
when you come to a new community;  
character is what you have when you go away.

Your reputation is learned in an hour;  
your character does not come to light for a year.

Reputation is made in a moment;  
character is built in a lifetime.

Reputation grows like a mushroom;  
character grows like the oak.

A single newspaper report  
gives you your reputation;  
a life of toil gives you your character.  
Reputation makes you rich or makes you poor;  
character makes you happy or makes you miserable.  
Reputation is what men say about you  
on your tombstone;  
Character is what angels say about you  
before the throne of God.

submitted by Betty Chatfield



### **Summer Worship at FPC Greenlawn**

On July 4, we observed our country's independence with a Lessons and Carols-type service combining inspirational readings and songs. The sermon was titled, "Reflections on Independence Day. Communion was served.

We wrestled with the beheading of John (Mark 6:14-29) on July 11, with "Lessons from a Difficult Scripture."

On July 18, we joyfully welcomed our beloved former Pastor, Rev. Fred Woodward, who filled in while Pastor Ann and Bob were on vacation. His sermon was titled, "Growing Up Christian."

We looked at the story of the Loaves and Fishes on July 25, and unpacked how our efforts can be made better with God's help, with "Our Best, Enhanced by God."

On August 1, we celebrated Communion, and were reminded that Jesus is the "True Bread from Heaven."

We welcomed The Rev. Mary Larson, Protestant Chaplain at St. Charles Hospital, on August 8, while Pastor Ann and Bob traveled to Massachusetts. Her sermon was called "Dancing with God."

On August 15, the sermon struck a chord with many of us: "When Life Gets out of Control."

Things did get a bit out of control on August 22. We didn't know what was going to happen with Hurricane Henri, so we canceled our in-person Service and worshiped via Zoom. Oddly enough, the sermon was called, "The More Things Change, the More They Remain the Same."

Someone once said that summer television was nothing but home runs and re-runs. We took that theme and ran with it. (Ouch!) Pastor Ann sent out a list of all her sermons from the past year, and asked people to select one that may have hit a "home run" so she could "re-run" it on August 29. The sermon that got the most votes was "The Story of Rudolph" from our "Carols and More Carols" service of December 27, 2020. We also got a request to sing "For the Beauty of the Earth."

### **September Worship**

Our September 5, worship will follow the summer schedule of beginning worship at 10:00 a.m. On September 12, we will return to our 10:30 worship time.

Tentative sermon titles and themes are as follows:

Sunday, September 5: Labor Day Sunday – "Do We Work Too Hard? (Communion Served)

Sunday, September 12: A 9/11 tribute: "We Remember"

Sunday, September 19: "A Less-Than-Perfect Instrument in the Hands of God"

Sunday, September 26: "Called by God"



### **September 11 – A 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tribute**

Anyone over 25 years of age remembers September 11, 2001. This year, we will commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that fateful day with a special Service on September 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Our Service will be followed by a brunch, where we can continue to reflect on our country's past as well as its future.

### **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.





## **Everett Dodge – A Remembrance**

By Betty Chatfield

We, at The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn, are honored to receive a bequest from the estate of John Everett Dodge, who passed away January 2015.

Everett's son, David, said the bequest was in honor of his father, and was only to be used for church maintenance, which was his father's wish.

Everett, and his family as well, maintained our church grounds for many years. He was an active member of our church's Building and Grounds Committee, and generously donated his time and talents to many of the committee's projects throughout his life. He took great pride in helping to maintain God's House, and we will always remember his good works. I still miss Becky and Everett Dodge. They were 'quite the couple'.



*(Pictured above are Everett and Becky Dodge. The photograph was taken from the church's 1997 yearbook.)*

### **Laity Sunday**

Our church will hold a Laity Sunday sometime this fall. 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.

### **Choir**

Our choir will be singing four times this coming year: Thanksgiving Sunday, the Sunday before Christmas (Lessons and Carols), Easter Sunday, and Pentecost Sunday. Having a women's choir seems to work best for us. We have 10 members, but would love to have more. Please see Pastor Ann or Leonora Colletti if you would like to join.



### **Welcome to the Christian Faith,**

#### **Paris Milani Johnson**

It was our joy to welcome Paris Milani Johnson into the Christian faith through the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday, August 21. The Baptism had originally been scheduled for Sunday, August 22, at our church. However, with a hurricane predicted and relatives flying in from out of town, it was prudent to move the baptism (and the family gathering that was to follow) from Sunday to Saturday. Pastor Ann officiated at the Baptism, which was held at Paris' great-grandmother's home in South Huntington.

Paris was born on December 26, 2019. She is the child of Gizel Velazquez and Curtis Johnson.

### **Memorial Service for Steve Siegman**

Linda Siegmann, 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.



### **The Church Fair Is Back!**

*Our Church Fair is a great Church Fair.  
Don't miss it. Don't even be late.  
It's dollars to donuts that our Church Fair  
Is the best Church Fair in our state!*

(Adapted from *State Fair*,  
with apologies to Oscar Hammerstein)

Our Church Fair is back, and chairperson Larry Foray promises it's going to be better than ever. About half of the vendor slots are taken, with a month yet to go before the Fair.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the front lawn of the church. In addition to the vendors, there will be food, entertainment, and yard sale tables to benefit the church. 10' x 10' spaces are still available for \$60.

This is an "all-hands-on-deck" event. Larry Foray has a sign-up sheet, and is ready to sign people up to help after church any Sunday.

Items for the church yard sale tables may be dropped off at church any Thursday, Friday, or Sunday.

### **Clothing Bin**

Did you know that our church gets paid 10 cents a pound for items that are put into the clothing bin next to our back parking lot? We receive a check once a week, sometimes for as little as \$1.50, and sometimes for as much as \$8.00. Every little bit adds up!

Additionally, bric-a-brac and kitchen items may be left next to the bin for pickup. Donated items are sent to developing countries, so this is a win-win for everyone involved.



### **Missions Committee**

As of July 31, we have received \$134 from the new special Missions envelopes, available on the last Sunday of each month. Additionally, \$1,219 has been received thus far from benevolence pledges. The total from both is \$1,353.

The Little Food Pantry is also the responsibility of the Missions Committee. Gary and Lydia Mott restock the pantry every Wednesday, and Kathie Gerlach restocks it on Saturdays. All three people report that we have plenty of canned vegetables, but we can always use canned fruit, macaroni, and breakfast cereal.

In addition to the four Presbyterian offerings, our charities are as follows:

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

In September, Missions Chair Kathie Gerlach will educate the congregation by doing a Minute for Mission on one of our charities



### **Buildings and Grounds Update**

Buildings and Grounds co-chairs Bob Arelt and Larry Foray have reported that the following projects were undertaken this summer:

- Emergency lighting and exit signs checked and replaced where necessary.
- New entrance and exit signs purchased for the parking lot.
- Heating system maintenance appointment scheduled.
- Manse oil tank inspected.
- Church portico and hall roof inspection scheduled.
- Handrails for portico steps ordered.
- Gardens edged and weeded.
- Bushes around the church cut back.
- New CE Hall ceiling fans ordered.



### An Additional Scripture Reading

Betty Chatfield submitted this scripture reading which, unfortunately, did not fit on the Prayer Corner page.

*Since this is the kind of life we have chosen,  
the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not  
just hold it as an idea in our heads  
or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its  
implications in every detail of our lives.  
That means we will not compare ourselves with  
each other as if one of us were better and another  
worse. We have far more interesting things  
to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.*  
~Galatians 5:22-26 Message Bible

### Two Poems

Leonora Colletti submitted the following two poems, which are related to one another. The first one is very famous; the second one is a take-off on the first.

#### FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

*Author: Carolyn Joyce Carty*

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it: "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied: "My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."



#### BUTT PRINTS IN THE SAND

*Author: Unknown*

One night I had a wondrous dream,  
One set of footprints there was seen,  
The footprints of my precious Lord,  
But mine were not along the shore.

But then some stranger prints appeared,  
And I asked the Lord, "What have we here?"  
Those prints are large and round and neat,  
"But Lord they are too big for feet."

"My child," He said in somber tones,  
"For miles I carried you alone.  
I challenged you to walk in faith,  
But you refused and made me wait."

"You disobeyed, you would not grow,  
The walk of faith, you would not know.  
So I got tired, I got fed up,  
and there I dropped you on your butt."

"Because in life, there comes a time,  
when one must fight, and one must climb.  
When one must rise and take a stand,  
or leave their butt prints in the sand."

### 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



## Laughter is the Best Medicine

I see people my age out there climbing mountains and zip lining, and here I am feeling good about myself because I got my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

You can have a good morning, or you can get your kids to school on time. But you can't have both.

There are two people in every relationship:

Partner 1: "Okay, I have our passports, boarding passes, and car rental reservation.

Partner 2: "Where are we going again?"

I was going to cook alligator for dinner, but realized I only had a croc pot.

Free marriage tip: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she is mowing the lawn.

I hate it when I mean to buy seedless grapes but instead, I accidentally get ... well, you know ... Oreos.

My Kid: I feel like you're always making up rules and stuff.

Me: Like what?

My Kid: Like if I don't clean my room a portal will open and take me to another dimension.

Me: Well, that's what happened to your older brother.

My Kid: What older brother?

Me: Exactly.

One minute, you're young and fun. And the next, you're turning down the radio in your car to see better.

Me at 16: This radio station is playing my song.

Me at 21: This bar is playing my song.

Me now: This grocery store is playing my song.

I just had a physical. The doctor said, "Don't eat anything fatty." I said, "Like bacon and burgers?" He said, No, Fatty. Don't eat anything!"

## From the Pastor's Kitchen: Some Interesting Finger Sandwiches

There were two foods that were not allowed in our house when I was growing up. One was instant mashed potatoes. The other was Spam.

My parents were horrified one day when they learned that a neighbor had made her husband a Spam roast for dinner. Several years later, the husband sued his wife for divorce. "I don't blame him," said my father.

Fast forward 55 years. My friend, Mary Ellen Stevens, brought some delicious finger sandwiches to coffee hour one Sunday. They were gone in five minutes. Imagine our surprise when Mary Ellen informed us that we had just eaten Spam!

Here is her recipe. Try it if you dare!

### Mary Ellen Stevens' Spam Sandwich Filling

Ingredients:

1 can Spam (I use reduced sodium), grated.

1 medium to large carrot, peeled and grated.

½ green pepper, finely chopped or grated.

¼ cup onion, finely chopped or grated.

¼ cup sweet relish

¼ - 1/3 cup Hellman's mayonnaise

Combine all ingredients together and mix with enough mayo for desired taste and consistency. Make sandwiches with the prepared filling on your favorite bread.

Note: I've brought these sandwiches to special lunch events and have served them to company at home. I'm always amazed at how popular they are. It's fun to see the people's faces when they are told that they are eating Spam! I try to restrain myself from making this regularly because it's just too good to resist.







