



# *The Steeple Chimes*

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

*Fall, 2023*

## *Pastor's Message*

My Beloved Church Family,

It's been a while since we've published The Steeple Chimes, I know. I won't bore you with the details, let's just say that life has been a treadmill lately. But I've been learning how to (1) slow down the treadmill a bit, and (2) walk a little faster.

Autumn is such a wonderful time! Weather-wise, we have days that are like spring, summer, fall, and winter, all rolled up into one season. Meanwhile, the hibernating plants remind us of the importance of rest in order to have the energy to take on something new.

Surely, our church "kicked back" a bit in the summer. (The importance of rest!) But we have come back stronger than ever. Our Church Fair was a success, despite the rain. We made a few dollars, but even better, we reached out into the community with much love.

We blessed about ten dogs at our Blessing of the Pets Service on October 15. Several people there asked me if dogs went to Heaven. My answer was and is: Scripture has nothing to say on that subject. But personally, if I am fortunate enough to get to Heaven, I will not be surprised at all if there are some beloved pets waiting to greet me.

There are lots of interesting things coming up between now and the end of 2023. Our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will take place in CE Hall right after worship on November 12. The choir will sing at our Thanksgiving Service on November 19.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. Our popular Lessons and Carols Service takes place on December 17. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, so we will celebrate Advent IV at 10:30 a.m. and the Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 p.m.

We will continue with our annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 2, our Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 9, and our Community Tree Lighting and Carol Sing on Sunday, December 17.



Every Sunday, during the offering section of our Celebration of worship, I make it a point to thank everyone for your constant support of our church, not only with your monetary offerings, but also with the time you give to us and your attendance at worship. (We had 39 people in church plus six on Zoom on October 22. Isn't that great?) Let me now take this opportunity to thank our *extended* church family for *your* support as well. We are unique among many other churches in that we have emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever. I thank God for that, and I thank *you*!

A church is not a building. A church is people. May God continue to bless the people of this church as we seek to serve God and community in this, our 151<sup>st</sup> year of service.

With love and blessings,

*Pastor Ann*



## Birthday Blessings

October 7 – Anna Beck  
October 19 – Julie Hago  
October 20 – Arlissa Dean  
October 26 – Nancy MacIntyre  
October 27 – James Dean  
October 30 – Helen Kozlowski  
October 31 – Kathleen Gerlach  
October 31 – Susan Perrotta

November 1 – Debbie Eitel  
November 1 – Ted Caskey  
November 6 – Claire Proctor  
November 9 – Maria Francis-Henry  
November 9 – Michael Pennino  
November 11 – Tyler Hago  
November 29 – Geri Milk

December 7 – John Rixon  
December 16 – Thomas Dean  
December 30 – Corinne Burdett



### **A Thought to Ponder**

People don't always say, "I love you."

Sometimes it sounds like:

"Did you eat?"

"Be safe."

"Call me when you get home."

"I made this for you."

## 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!

Now through July 20, inclusive: **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.

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September 24: We explored the fact that Jesus' Disciples dropped everything when they decided to follow him. The sermon was "Leaving It All Behind."

October 1: World Communion Sunday. We examined the leadership of Moses in a sermon called, "This Rock." The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

October 8: Another parable from Matthew's Gospel. We drew parallels between a landowner in Jesus' time, and the fact that nothing really belongs to us, which was the title of the sermon.

October 15: In Matthew 22, God invites us to a banquet. Are we prepared for that banquet?

October 15: The Blessing of the Pets, 1:00 p.m.

October 22: We explored "Give Unto Caesar what Is Caesar's" in Matthew 22:15-22.

### **Upcoming Services and tentative themes:**

October 29: What is God's greatest commandment? Love God, love your neighbor. Is it really that simple?

November 5: we will unpack the old adage: "He who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." The Sacrament of the Lords Supper will be celebrated.

November 12: Stewardship Sunday.

November 19: Thanksgiving Sunday

### **The Liturgical Calendar - Looking Ahead:**

November 26: Christ the King Sunday

December 3: The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 10: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 17: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 24: The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (10:30 a.m.)

December 24: Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service (7:00 p.m.)

December 31: Ringing in the New Year (10:30 a.m.)

January 7: Celebration of The Epiphany



# Prayer Corner

## HALLOWEEN GRACE

*Amidst hobgoblins and pranksters, Lord,  
we seek a quiet corner this autumn evening,  
to give thanks for the saints  
whose day this really is.*

*Be tolerant of our commercialized,  
costumed fun, even as you remind us  
of the pillars of faith  
upon whose shoulders we stand today.*

*Keep our trick-or-treating fun, clean, and safe,  
our faith memories aware,  
for it is too easy to lose track of what we really  
celebrate in the darkness of this night.*  
—Margaret Anne Huffman

*You made me and formed me with your hands.  
Give me understanding so I can learn your  
commands.*  
Ps 119:73 ICB

*We shall steer safely through every storm,  
so long as our heart is right,  
our intention fervent,  
our courage steadfast,  
and our trust fixed on God.*  
~St. Francis de Sales

Those we love don't go away. They walk  
beside us every day...Unseen, unheard, but  
always near, still loved still miss and very dear.

“It is not the body's posture, but the heart's  
attitude that counts when we pray.”  
~Billy Graham

## WORD OF LIFE

~Woodrow Wilson

(28<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America)

The Bible is the Word of Life. I beg you  
will read it and find this out for yourself—read,  
not little snatches here and there, but long  
passages that will really be the road to the heart  
of it.

You will not only find it full of real men and  
women, but also of things you have wondered  
about and been troubled about all your life, as  
men have been always, and the more you read,  
the more will it become plain to you what  
things are worthwhile and what are not; what  
things make men happy—loyalty, right dealing,  
speaking the truth, readiness to give everything  
for what they think their duty, and, most of all,  
the wish that they may have the real approval of  
the Christ, who gave everything for them; and  
the things that are guaranteed to make men  
unhappy—selfishness, cowardice, greed, and  
everything that is low and mean.

When you have read the Bible, you will  
know that it is the Word of God, because you  
will have found it the key to your own heart,  
your own happiness, and your own duty.



*There are so many versions of the Bible. Find a  
couple that you like best. For example:*

*King James Version KJV*

*New International Version NIV*

*New Living Translation NLT*

*Life Application Study Bible (available in KJV;  
NIV; NLT)*

*The Message MSG*

*Good News Bible GNB*

*God's Word GW*

~ submitted by Betty Chatfield



# in *Loving Memory*

**Kenneth L. Longstreet**  
**(October 23, 1948 – August 16, 2023)**



Kenneth Leroy Longstreet was born in Huntington Hospital on October 23, 1948, to Mildred and Emmett Longstreet. Known to his family and friends as “Kenny,” he was the second of four children

His family lived in Greenlawn, and he attended Sunday School here at First Presbyterian. When he was thirteen, the family moved to Westbury.

As a youngster, Ken had a hearing disability, which he worked hard to overcome. He enrolled in a training program for differently-abled people, and it was there that he met Jane Schrenker.

Jane’s family lived in Syosset, but then moved to New Jersey. That didn’t stop Ken; he drove to New Jersey every weekend to spend time with his Janie. One memorable day, when Janie was 20 and Ken was 34, Janie’s parents came home from a shopping trip to find her bedroom empty and her clothing gone: Jane and Ken had eloped!

Ken loved animals, and worked in a pet store for a time, after which he worked for AT&T. He had a passion for weather, and his father-in-law, Bob, cleared the way for Ken to get a job with NOAA – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – near MacArthur Airport. He retired from this career ten years ago.

Kenny was a kind and gentle person. In the days prior to his Funeral Service, people of our church shared stories of Kenny’s kindness, his willingness to be helpful, and the unconditional love he had for them. He was our back-up bell ringer on Sundays. He was also a faithful attendee at our Lenten Soup Suppers, and was always willing to lend a hand at our church fairs and yard sales. He was a man of deep faith who was looking forward to helping us build a prayer garden on the church grounds.

Ken leaves behind his wife, Jane, his siblings, Linda, Barbara, and Colin; his in-laws, Bob and Liz Schrenker, his brother-in-law, John, sister-in-law Karen, nieces, Samantha, Jennifer, and Sydney, as well as numerous extended family and friends. He will be missed.



### **Our Annual Greenport Party**

For the past three summers, Pastor Ann has invited our church family out to the “Greenport Parsonage” for food and fellowship.

This year, Pastor Ann arranged for a “field trip” to Orient Congregational Church, a beautiful historic church built in 1843. (It’s also the church where she served as Pastor for eighteen years.) We enjoyed seeing the architecture and the stained glass windows. We particularly enjoyed seeing the outdoor prayer garden, and wondered if we could build something similar in Greenlawn.

Once we got back to Greenport, our committee chairs were recognized and thanked for their hard work and devotion to First Presbyterian.

Next year’s summer outing will take place on Saturday, August 3. Mark your calendar!



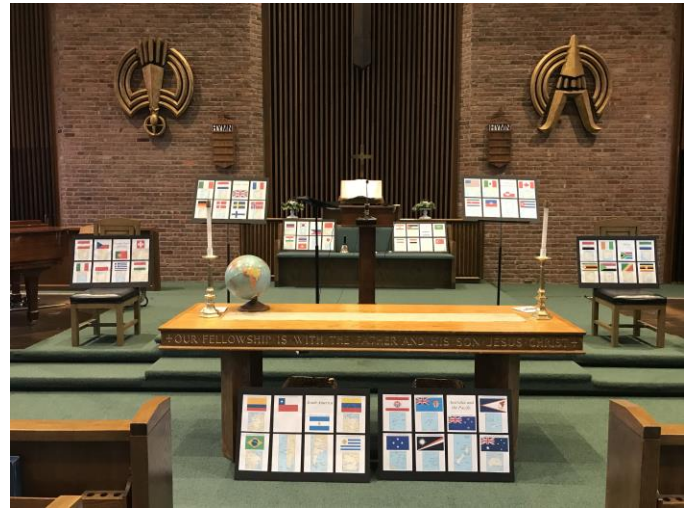
*Arlissa and Jim Dean are thanked  
for all they do for our church*

### **A Future Prayer Garden for Our Church**

Kenny Longstreet was particularly impressed by the outdoor Prayer Garden at Orient Congregational Church. He shared with everyone all of the things we could do if we had a similar garden: summer worship, church barbecues, and even a place to pray. “I’m going to help place the stepping stones in that garden,” he declared.

Eleven days later, he died unexpectedly, but his dream of a church Prayer Garden lives on. Gifts totaling \$5,500 in Kenny’s memory have been received, with more coming in. We hope to start working on our Prayer Garden in the spring.

### **World Communion Sunday**



*We observed World Communion Sunday with a  
display of flags and maps from around the world.*

On October 1, our congregation celebrated World Communion Sunday. Formerly called World Wide Communion Sunday, it was originated in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, by Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr in 1933.

That year was the darkest year of the Great Depression. The clouds of Naziism and Fascism hovered all over Europe. The prevailing mood was anxiety – fear about economics, fear about politics, and fear about the future. As a faith response to these fears, Dr. Kerr and the leaders of his congregation sought to do something both real and symbolic to proclaim that God is God, indeed.

Dr. Kerr and the congregation leaders conceived the idea of a Communion Service that followed daylight as it traveled around the globe. The concept spread slowly at first, but was firmly established by World War II. When we all share the Meal where Christ is our host, we are connected in ways that transcend boundaries of geography and language. Around the Table, we broadcast our faith to the world and say, “Come and dine; there is room for all.”





### **Annual Church Fair**

“One person’s trash is another person’s treasure.” And, oh boy, did we have treasures at our Church Fair.!

Originally scheduled for September 23, we had to use the rain date of September 30. Wow, did it pour on September 30! Undaunted, we moved the fair indoors.

Between the food, vendors, and yard sale items, we made a little over \$1,200, and generated a lot of good will for our church.

Some of the leftover items were donated to a local charity, and the better ones were stored, to be offered at a future fair. We had great fun and fellowship, and that counts for a lot.



*Some of the “treasures” from our Church Fair.*

### **Blessing of the Pets**

On Sunday, October 15, we blessed ten dogs at a special Blessing of the Pets Service in our Sanctuary. Our pets are truly a gift from God!



### **Wedding Bells**

Congratulations to Deneen Gabler and Arthur Blazek, who were married on August 26 in their back yard in East Northport. Pastor Ann officiated. May God bless Deneen and Art, and grant them a long and happy marriage.



### **The Little Food Pantry**

The outdoor food pantry is a continued blessing to the Greenlawn community. It is checked on every day and filled twice a week. The indoor pantry is in need of canned chicken, meats, and canned vegetables such as spinach, carrots, mixed vegetables, potatoes, asparagus, green beans and peas. We are also in need of assorted varieties of canned beans.



Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **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 Fellowship Director's Kitchen:**  
**Award-Winning Turkey Chili**

At our recent Church Fair, Debbie Eitel's turkey chili received some rave reviews. She generously shared the recipe with us.

**Ingredients**

- 1 pound turkey ground
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- ½ cup yellow onion diced
- 1 (15 oz) can tomato sauce
- 1 (14.5 oz can) diced tomatoes
- 1 (7 oz can) diced green chilies
- 1 (15 oz can) kidney beans, drained, rinsed
- 1 (15 oz can) black beans, drained, rinsed
- 1 – 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar

**Toppings**

- Sour cream
- Shredded cheese
- Green onion, sliced

**Instructions: Slow Cooker**

Add the ground turkey and onion to a medium size skillet. Cook over medium heat until the onion is soft and the turkey is completely cooked. Add the garlic and cook an additional 30 seconds. Remove from heat and add to the crockpot. Add in all the other ingredients, stir to combine. Cook on low heat for 4 – 6 hours.

**Instructions: Stovetop**

Add the meat to a large pot or Dutch oven. As the turkey is cooking, add the chopped onion to cook and soften. Drain any excess moisture. Add the garlic and allow it to cook for an additional 30 seconds. Add all the other ingredients. Bring the chili to a simmer and allow to cook for 10 – 15 minutes. Serve and top with your favorite toppings!

Note: Chili powder – start with 1 tablespoon and add more to taste.



**Do You Know Your Hymns?**

Dentist's Hymn:  
*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Weatherman's Hymn:  
*There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*

Contractor's Hymn:  
*The Church's One Foundation*

Tailor's Hymn:  
*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Golfer's Hymn:  
*There's a Green Hill Far Away*

Politician's Hymn:  
*Standing on the Promises*

Optometrist's Hymn:  
*Open My Eyes That I Might See*

IRS Agent's Hymn:  
*I Surrender All*

Gossip's Hymn:  
*Pass It On*

Electrician's Hymn  
*Send the Light*

Shopper's Hymn  
*Sweet Bye and Bye*

Realtor's Hymn:  
*I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop*

Give me a sense of humor, Lord God. Give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humor out of life, and to pass it to other folks.