



# *The Steeple Chimes*

The E-Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn  
497 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn, NY 11740

631-261-2150 [www.greenlawnpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.greenlawnpresbyterianchurch.org)

FaceBook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Greenlawn

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Pastor

*July – August, 2021*

## *Pastor's Message*

My Beloved Church Family,

One of the things that I do as I prepare to publish *The Steeple Chimes* each month is to look over last year's corresponding edition to make sure that I haven't missed anything important. That's how I ended up reading my *Pastor's Message* from last July, and was reminded how uncertain life was as we were dealing with a closed church building and wondering what the future held for us.

We've come a long way since then. We're worshipping together in the Sanctuary (and in the Parlor during July and August) once more, and we've resumed coffee hours. Great things are happening buildings and grounds-wise, including the refurbishing of the church office, the installation of wainscoting in the front hallway, and, in particular, the renovation of the choir room. Governance-wise, we have gone to a unicameral board and re-structured many of our committees. In particular, the Missions Committee has enjoyed a resurgence, and our *Little Food Pantry* is available to the community 24/7.

The pandemic forced us to make some changes that we never would have made on our own. We streamlined our Order of Worship, and most of our committee and Session meetings now take place via Zoom. We also learned to simulcast our Sunday morning Services, enabling homebound and out-of-town friends and members to participate.

Could we have predicted all of this a year ago? I don't think so. But God was there for us. It always amazes me that no matter happens in life, God has a solution. God's ways are not only perfect, but they're much more exciting than our ways ever could be.

Sadly, this summer won't be perfect. COVID-19 is still out there. Food, gasoline, and building materials are getting expensive. Some may see this as a half-empty glass, but we can allow God to show us how that glass is really half-full.

This summer, we at FPC Greenlawn will be in "planning mode." The Vision Team has a lot of ideas for the coming year, and we have a Church Fair coming up at the end of September. Furthermore, we have to start talking about how we're going to celebrate our church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year in 2022. Yes, our future is bright, indeed!

Have a blessed July and August. See you in church!

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.; worship begins at 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 July 18, inclusive, **the Meeting ID is: 925 8111 6844. The Passcode is: 723828.**

July 25 through September 5, inclusive, **the Meeting ID is: 967 6925 8690. Passcode: 648088**

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!**

July 6 – Barbara Small

July 9 – Rev. Fred Woodward

July 12 – John Eric Proctor

July 28 – Tatiana Crosby

August 3 – William D'Andrea

August 3 – Lydia Mott

August 3 – Lynda Siegmann

August 17 – Maria Hottinger

August 23 – Briana Rixon

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

## 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.

\*\*\*

Liberty Bell Inscription:

*“Proclaim liberty throughout the land  
and to all the inhabitants thereof”* Lev. 25:10

\*\*\*

During his inauguration, George Washington  
took the oath as prescribed by the Constitution but  
added several religious components to that official  
ceremony. Before taking his oath of Office, he  
summoned a Bible on which to take the oath, added  
the words “So help me God!” to the end of the oath,  
then leaned over and kissed the Bible.

\*\*\*

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

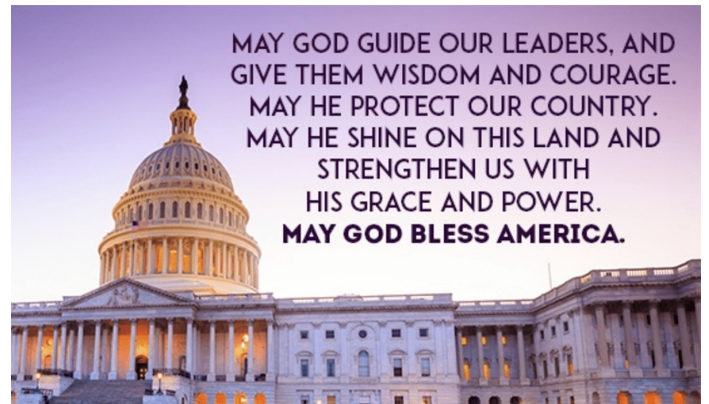
-Robert Harold Schuller

Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads  
one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear  
friend. Tell God your troubles, that God may  
comfort you; tell God your joys, that God may  
sober them; tell God your longings, that God may  
purify them; tell God your dislikes, that God may  
help you conquer them; talk to God of your  
temptations, that God may shield you from them:  
show God the wounds of your heart, that God may  
heal them. If you thus pour out all your  
weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be no lack of  
what to say. Talk out of the abundance of the heart,  
without consideration say just what you think.

Blessed are they who attain to such familiar,  
unreserved intercourse with God.

- Francois Fenelon

submitted by Betty Chatfield



## A PRAYER FOR THE NATION

Almighty God, You have given us this good land  
as our heritage. Make us always remember Your  
generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our  
land with honest industry, truthful education, and an  
honorable way of life. Save us from violence,  
discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance,  
and from every evil course of action. Make us, who  
came from many nations with many different  
languages, a united people.

Defend our liberties and give those whom we  
have entrusted with the authority of government the  
spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and  
peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let  
our hearts be thankful, and, in troubled times, do not  
let our trust in You fail. We ask all this through  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Copyright 1978, Lutheran *Book of Worship*, Augsburg Press.)

### **June Worship at FPC Greenlawn**

On June 6, we celebrated The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The sermon was called "The Rule of God and the Love of God." We spoke of how love must triumph over rules.

We joyfully baptized Avery Ann Sanchez, daughter of Matthew Sanchez and Marissa Bianculli. During the sermon, we unpacked the first question that God asked in Genesis: "Where Are You?"

June 20 was Father's Day. We celebrated our fathers. The sermon was titled, "A Father's Gift."

On June 27, the sermon was called "Dealing with Life's Interruptions." We looked to Jesus as an example of how to handle life's interruptions.



### **Welcome to the Christian Faith, Avery Ann Sanchez**

It was our joy to welcome Avery Ann Sanchez to the Christian faith through the Sacrament of Baptism on June 13. Avery charmed the entire congregation that day, and we look forward to watching her grow in her faith. Proud parents are Matthew Sanchez and Marissa Bianculli.



### **Summer Worship at Our Church**

Summer worship will take place at 10:00 a.m. in our air-conditioned Parlor. We invite you to join us either in person or via Zoom. Tentative sermon titles and themes are as follows:

July 4: "Reflections on Independence Day," Communion; A Patriotic Service of Lessons and Carols.

July 11: "Lessons from a Difficult Scripture"

July 18: "Growing Up Christian," Rev. Fred Woodward, Guest Minister

July 25: "Our Best, Enhanced by God"

August 1: Communion; "How Much Is Enough?"

August 8: Rev. Mary Larson, Protestant Chaplain at St. Charles Hospital, Guest Minister.

August 15: "The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same."

August 22: "The Shocking Words of Jesus – A Political Nightmare!"

August 29: "Homeruns and Reruns."

September 5: Labor Day Sunday, Communion, "Do We Work Too Hard?"



### **Thank You, God, for the Fathers in Our Lives**

On Sunday, June 20, we thanked God for our fathers and other special men who may have been like fathers to us. We placed photos on the Communion Table, and said special prayers of blessing and thanks. Fellowship Director Debbie Eitel arranged for some special gifts for all the men who were present.

Thank you, gentlemen, for all that you do for God's Creation. We hope you had a happy Father's Day, and may God bless you abundantly!

### Our Renovated Choir Room

This big project, under the direction of Larry Foray, began last September, when we realized that the former choir room had a lot of potential as a meeting room that we can offer to the larger community.

A room divider was removed, and walls were painted a light gray. The floor was cleaned and tiles were sealed. Modern energy-efficient lighting was installed, then the old ceiling tiles were removed, and replaced with and new ones. Lastly, commercial carpeting squares were installed.

Future plans include the redecorating of the lobby area outside of the choir room, which now has to be re-named.

Although several people helped with the project, both financially and with “sweat equity,” Larry Foray did 95% of the work, thus saving the church many thousands of dollars. We owe him a big “Thank you.”

Now, the room is ready to rent. Are you considering having a party, a business meeting, or a baby shower? You might want to take a good look at our room!

### Choir Room Before and After Carpeting (Southwest Corner)



### “Home Runs and Re-runs”

Many years ago, there was a cartoon in a magazine. A man was sitting in front of his television. His wife was standing behind him, with her hands on her hips. The caption quoted her as saying, “Here we go. Another summer of home runs and re-runs.”

We, at FPC Greenlawn are going to take that theme and run with it. (Ugh! Sorry!)

Are there any sermons from the past year that hit a “home run” with you that you would like to have us “re-run?”

How about hymns? Is there a favorite hymn you haven’t heard in a while what we can “re-run” for you?



Our “Home Runs and Re-runs” service will take place on Sunday, August 29. Please contact Pastor Ann and tell her

which sermon and hymns you would like to hear again.

Maybe we’ll even wear the shirts / hats / of our favorite baseball teams that day!



## Our Church Fair is Back!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 25. Our Church Fair is back! Larry Foray is chairing this event, with the assistance of as many of our church members and friends as possible.

Right now, we are looking for vendors to rent 10 by 10-foot spaces at the Fair. Do you know someone who might be interested?

Larry has a list of jobs for people to do prior to the Fair as well as on the day of the event itself. Some of these jobs can be done sitting down.

There will be some organizational meetings between now and September; the first one is scheduled for Sunday, July 11, immediately following coffee hour.

Please contact Larry Foray to tell him how you can help. You may call the church office at (631) 261-2150 and leave a message; Larry will get back to you.



This is an important outreach into our community, and a chance to share what we are all about at FPC Greenlawn.

## The Pentecost Offering

The final numbers are in. We received \$703.43, Thank you to everyone who supported our Pentecost Offering.

40% of the offering will be given to Long Island Youth Mentoring. That comes to \$281.37. We will add \$18.63 to that, and send a total of \$300 to that organization. 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.*



## Vision Team Update

### Our Mission:

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

We hope to have a “**Movies with a Message**” program in the fall, and are considering a series called “A.D.”

We looked at a flyer for a children’s **Bike Safety Rodeo** sponsored by an East End Fire Department. We will put this idea in our files for future consideration.

Pastor Ann will have some **green t-shirts** made up for helpers to wear at the Church Fair. (Kathie Gerlach brought it up, Pastor Ann was already planning on it. Great minds think alike!)

We talked about a **September Rally Day**. Even though we do not currently have Sunday School kids, the Vision Team felt we should rally anyway.

Larry Foray updated the Team regarding the **Church Fair**. Sample flyers were distributed. The church will have several tables where we can make a little money on yard sale items. Maps were provided of the proposed layout of tables. The Food Court will probably be inside; all other tables will be outside on the front lawn. There are 28 vendor slots available at \$60 each. We will try to have some raffle baskets, and will ask the entire congregation for help so it doesn’t fall on one person. Larry presented these ideas to the Session on June 17, and it was approved unanimously.



## Laughter is the Best Medicine

I always wondered if songbirds get a little annoyed at hummingbirds, because they won't learn the lyrics.

No, I can't do Snapchat or Tiktok, but I can write in cursive, do math without a calculator, and tell time on a clock with hands.

Don't annoy old people! The older we get, the less "life in prison" is a deterrent!

Not to brag or anything, but I can forget what I'm doing while I'm doing it.

My mind still thinks I'm 25. My body thinks my mind is an idiot.

I'm proud to announce that I completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.

The first bottle of Coca-Cola from 1894 contained around 3.5 grams of cocaine. That explains why our grandparents could walk to and from school, uphill, both ways, in the snow, barefoot.

My superpower is holding onto junk for years and throwing it away a week before I need it.

The older I get, the tighter the companies are putting the lids on jars.

It feels amazing to walk into a store and buy whatever I want without looking at the price tag. Thank you, Dollar Tree.

### Our Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

#### Class of 2021

Betty Chatfield  
Debbie Eitel  
Ruth Satterlee

#### Class of 2022

Diane Kirchoff  
Gary Prentiss  
George Santos

#### Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean  
Kathleen Gerlach

### From the Pastor's Kitchen: Grandma Teresa's Spaghetti Sauce

Grandma never followed a written recipe. She just threw in a handful of this and a pinch of that. It took me years to come close to duplicating her spaghetti sauce. This is what I came up with, and it tastes pretty authentic!

- 1 onion
- Olive oil
- 2 Cans Contadina tomato paste w/ Italian spices
- 2 (15 oz) cans diced tomatoes
- 1 pkg Italian sweet sausage

Julienne the onion and sauté in olive oil in a large pot.

Stir in the tomato paste.

Rinse out the cans, with about ¾ can of water each, and add the water to the pot. Stir.

Do the same with the diced tomatoes.

Add the sausage, cut in pieces.

Depending upon where the tomatoes came from, you may need to add a fistful of sugar. Also, if you're inclined, a cup of white wine will never hurt. (Then add another cup to the sauce!) Simmer for at least 2 hours, stirring occasionally. Don't cover the pot while the sauce is simmering – you want it to reduce and thicken. Don't use a slow cooker. Also, don't add chicken to the sauce while it's cooking; it will make the sauce very tart. It may be cooked a day or two ahead. The sauce also freezes well.



When I was a little girl, I thought that the best meal in the world was leftover spaghetti. In fact, I once told my mother, "When I get married, I'm going to serve my husband leftover spaghetti for his first dinner!" I'm sure my mother smiled.

The truth is, the longer you simmer spaghetti sauce, the better it tastes. I have been known to simmer it for 12 hours.

And, as far as leftovers are concerned, I've learned that spaghetti is very sloppy. In our house, we eat leftover rigatoni.