



The Steeple Chimes

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

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Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Pastor

September, 2022

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

As a teacher, I always found September to be a thrilling month, with new students, some new colleagues, a new schedule, new classroom materials, new clothes ...

Did you notice a pattern? I described everything as being new. And as much as we humans say we dislike change, there is something very exciting about "new."

Even if you never worked in a school setting, I am sure that as a student, you felt the same kind of anticipation of "newness" at the start of a school year.

True, we don't experience the same kind of "September newness" in our church life as we did in our school life. Even so, we come back from the summer season renewed, refreshed, and ready for a new program year.

September will bring us the dedication of our new Peace Pole, which will announce "May Peace Prevail on Earth" to our community in eight different languages. It is very appropriate that we will proclaim this message of peace on Sunday, October 23, the day we celebrate our 150th Anniversary.

On September 11, we will be saying "Goodbye and thank you" to our Director of Music, Leonora Colletti, as she moves on to a new stage in her musical career. Two weeks later, we will welcome a new Interim Worship Accompanist in the warm and loving way that makes our congregation so special.

We will close the month of September with our Church Fair. Larry Foray and his people have been working diligently all summer; this Fair promises to be the best ever!

Mark your calendar for our annual Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, October 2, at 1:00 p.m., and for our 150th Anniversary Service and Gala Luncheon on Sunday, October 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Isaiah 43:19 tells us: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Our church may be 150 years old, but we are continuing to show the world that we can still do "a new thing!"

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 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?

Now through September 18, inclusive, **Meeting ID: 845 5330 1194, Passcode: 669102**

September 25 through November 6, inclusive, **Meeting ID: 858 7167 3315, Passcode: 074489**

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!

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 19 – Jill Wilson
September 20 – Gary Mott
September 20 – Olivia Buatsi
September 23 – David Hammer
September 24 – Alexander Kirchhoff



October 7 – Ann Beck
October 10 – Dawn Polcer
October 19 – Julie Hago
October 20 – Arlissa Dean
October 23 – Ken Longstreet
October 26 – Nancy MacIntyre
October 27 – Jim Dean
October 30 – Helen Kozlowski
October 31 – Kathie Gerlach
October 31 – Susan Perrotta



Prayer Corner

Submitted by Betty Chatfield

PRAYER
~M. Hilmer

Thank you, Father, for being always with me.
Forgive me for forgetting to thank you for that.
Even when I am feeling that
I'd like to be alone for a while,
I never really want to be entirely alone.
I am thankful that You know
my every thought and need.
Thank you for your countless blessings,
even the ones that seem so hard to count. Amen.

KEEPING COMPANY WITH GOD
~Decision interview with Philip Yancey
author of "Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?"

Q: The Bible encourages us to persist and persevere in prayer. If the Lord hears us the first time, why do we need to continually ask?

A: I don't think we'll ever solve that mystery. There are a lot of things going on in prayer that we don't know about—that are invisible to us. I don't know what role persistence plays, but Jesus encourages it. I read somewhere that you can boil down Jesus' comments about prayer into three things. **Keep it short, keep it honest and keep it up.** Jesus valued prayer before every major event in His life. He spent hours, sometimes a whole night, in prayer.

One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon — instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today.
~ Dale Carnegie

IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY

“No man needs sympathy because he has to work,
because he has a burden to carry.
Far and away the best prize that life offers is the
chance to work hard at work worth doing.”
~ Theodore Roosevelt

To fulfill a dream,
to be allowed to sweat over lonely labor,
to be given a chance to create,
is the meat and potatoes of life.
The money is the gravy.
~Bette Davis

MAKE DUST
~Bob Burdette

My son, remember you have to work. Whether you handle pick or wheelbarrow or a set of books, digging ditches or editing a newspaper, ringing an auction bell or writing funny things, you must work.

Don't be afraid of killing yourself by overworking on the sunny side of thirty. Men die sometimes, but it is because they quit at nine p.m. and don't go home until two a.m. It's the intervals that kill, my son. The work gives you appetite for your meals; it lends solidity to your slumber; it gives you a perfect appreciation of a holiday.

There are young men who do not work, but the country is not proud of them. It does not even know their names; it only speaks of them as old So-and-So's boys. Nobody likes them; the great, busy world doesn't know they are here.

So, find out what you want to be and do. Take off your coat and make dust in the world. The busier you are, the less harm you are apt to get into, the sweeter will be your sleep, the brighter your holidays, and the better satisfied the work world will be with you.

“He who works with his hands is a laborer.
He who works with his hands and his head is a
craftsman.
He who works with his hands and his head and his
heart is an artist.”
~ Francis of Assisi

Mid- Summer Worship at FPC Greenlawn



On July 24, we unpacked The Lord's Prayer with "A Lesson on Prayer."

God blesses us abundantly. On July 31, we wondered "How Do We Handle Our Blessings?"

We humans put too much emphasis on things of this world, and not enough emphasis on God's Kingdom. On August 7, we explored this theme with "The Fear of Loss." Communion was served.

On August 14, a seminary classmate of Pastor Ann's, Glenn Rubin, was our guest preacher. Pastor Glenn comes to us from the Methodist tradition, and preached on one of his favorite topics: music.

Christianity is more about compassion than in rule-following. The August 24 sermon was called, "Compassion vs. Legalism."

August 28 was "Home Run and Re-run Sunday. People voted on the sermon they wanted to hear: the winner was "Thank God for Hand-Me-Downs, originally preached on November 21, 2021.

Upcoming Worship Themes

September 4 is Labor Day Weekend. The sermon will be about the blessings of work. Communion will be served.

On September 11, we will observe the 21st anniversary of 9/11.

September 18: We all know the Golden Rule. The sermon is titled, "Doing unto Others."

September 24: The poor man and the rich man in Luke 16 both die. With whom do you identify?

October 1 is World Communion Sunday. 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."

Pastoral Visits

If you are admitted to a hospital, please have someone contact the Church Office, or, Pastor Ann directly, so she may visit you. Because of privacy issues, hospitals will not notify us if you have been admitted.



Our Pastor makes regular visits to church members in nursing homes. Again, if you are admitted to a nursing home, please contact us.

Homebound church members are invited to make an appointment for a pastoral visit and/or Communion. Please e-mail Pastor Ann at pastorannsutton@yahoo.com to set up a mutually agreeable time.

Transplant Games of America

Kathie Gerlach is back in church, having participated in the 2022 Transplant Games of America (TGA), held in San Diego, CA, from July 27 – August 3.

Every two years, the TGA gathers thousands of transplant recipients, living donors, donor families, caregivers, transplant professionals, and supporters for the world's largest celebration of life. Forty state teams and a few international teams, consisting of transplant recipients, compete in over 20 athletic and recreational competitions to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation / transplantation.

Kathie competed with Team Liberty, representing Long Island, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. She received a gold medal in swimming for the 100-meter breaststroke, and a bronze medal in mixed doubles cornhole.

This is the 18th TGA that she has participated in since 1986.

Kathie has received two kidney transplants, and will be celebrating 47 years with her "Gift of Life" on September 8, 2022. She feels truly blessed.



Gala 150th Anniversary Luncheon

Our 150th Anniversary Gala Luncheon will take place on Sunday, October 23, at 12:30 p.m. in Moose Hall.. It will be catered by Lighthouse Catering. The menu, which will be served buffet style, will be:

Mixed Greens Salad

Choice of:

Salmon with Apricot Glaze

Chicken Pizzaiola

Beef Carne Asada

Roast Potatoes

Grilled Vegetables

Choice of: Cake or Mixed Fruit

Tickets are \$40. Yes, friends and family are invited. You may purchase tickets during Coffee Hour or by sending your check to:

FPC Greenlawn – Anniversary Tickets

497 Pulaski Road

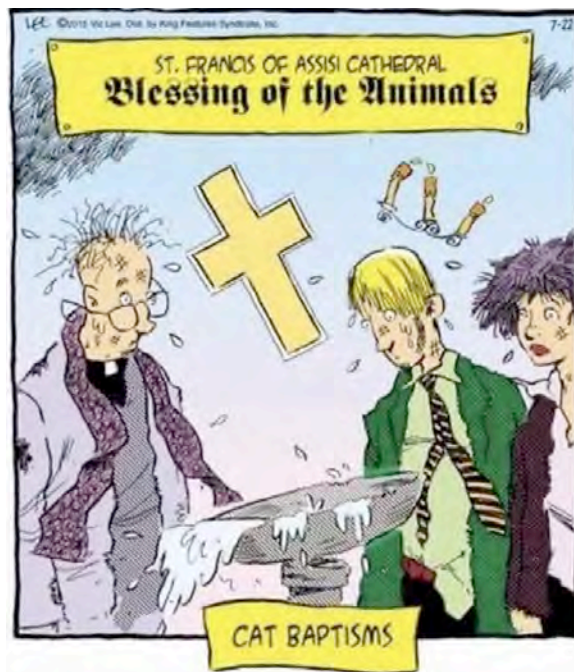
Greenlawn, NY 11740



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.

In order to have a Laity Sunday, we need to have someone willing to preach. We also need people willing to read other parts of the Service. Any volunteers? Please see Pastor Ann.



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 2, at 1:00 p.m.

If it rains, the Pet Blessing will be held the following Sunday, October 9. Please help spread the word.

The Church Fair Is Coming!

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



Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 24, 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.

This is an "all-hands-on-deck" event. Please see Larry Foray, Fair Chairperson, and tell him how you would like to help.

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

**Peace Pole to Be Planted at FPCG
Honoring 150th Anniversary**

An update on the Peace Pole: we had hoped to dedicate our new Peace Pole on September 11. However, it is not due to arrive until the end of the month. Instead, we will dedicate it as part of our



150th Anniversary Celebration on October 23.

There are an estimated 250,000 Peace Poles in every country in the world, dedicated as monuments to peace. Each Peace Pole bears the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth”

in eight different languages, two on each of its four sides.

Peace Poles have been placed in such notable locations as the North Magnetic Pole, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, and the site of the Egyptian Pyramids in Giza.

Our Peace Pole is a gift from the Van Cleefs, The languages on our pole will be English, Spanish, Greek, Hebrew, German, Korean, Italian, and French.

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.

Goodbye to Leonora

Our Director of Music, Leonora Colletti, will be leaving us to take an organist position at a church closer to her home. We have enjoyed her music these past several years, and have always appreciated the way she goes “the extra mile” for us, doing such things as making COVID masks, decorating the Communion Table, and working on the Vision Team.



We will get an opportunity to say goodbye to Leonora at a special coffee hour reception on September 11.

May God bless you on this next step in your musical career, Leonora!

Our Session

Recording Clerk

Susan Perrotta

Class of 2023

Diane Kirchoff
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2024

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach
Craig Satterlee

Class of 2025

Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef – Pastor
Leonora Colletti – Director of Music and Administrative Assistant
Debbie Eitel – Fellowship Director
Gary Prentiss – Custodian
James Dean – Treasurer
Betty Chatfield – Financial Secretary
Susan Perrotta – Benevolence Secretary
Irene Lang – Webmaster
Larry Foray – Building Use Manager



Seniors Helping Seniors

By: Pastor Ann

One of our church members suggested that The Steeple Chimes run a regular column with advice and hints that will help those of us who are Seniors enjoy our Golden Years.

I'll start the ball rolling this month, but I would love it if we could get some volunteers to contribute to this column.

We've all heard about the "Grandma scam," where someone calls pretending to be a grandchild in need of money. I mentally rehearsed how I would handle this type of call if I ever got one.

About a year ago, the opportunity arose.

"Hello, Grandma?" the caller whined.

Now, I don't have grandchildren. But Bob lets me borrow his. And, oddly enough, this person sounded a bit like our eldest grandson, Christian.

"Charlie!" I exclaimed. "How's it going, Charlie!"

"Not too good, Grandma," he replied.

I cut him off. "I don't have a grandson named Charlie," I screamed, and made a few un-pastor-like references regarding his intelligence and the legitimacy of his birth. Then I hung up.

Unfortunately, with modern-day phones, we don't have the satisfaction of slamming the receiver down into the cradle, like we did way back when.

My advice this month is to mentally rehearse how you are going to handle different types of scam calls so you're not caught off guard when the time comes. You can practice what you're going to say when you're trying to fall asleep at night – after you've said your prayers, of course!

When I say, "I'm just going to the bathroom," my dogs hear "family meeting! Assemble now!"

The Institute of Unfinished Research has concluded that 6 out of 10 people

Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.

Devil: "And this is the lake of lava that you'll be spending eternity in."

Me: "Actually, we're underground, so it would be called magma."

Devil: "This is why you're here, you realize."

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do, it's because I missed my exit.

"Just cleared out some space in the freezer."

That sounds so much more productive than "I just polished off another pint of ice cream," doesn't it?

I've started investing in stocks: beef, chicken, and vegetable. One day I hope to be a bouillonnaire.

The fitness trainer asked me what kind of squat I was going to do today. I said .. diddly squat!

I can't afford an Ancestry DNA kit to learn about my relatives. So instead, I posted online that I had won the lottery.

When I was a kid, they didn't take me to a psychologist ... my Mom was able to open my chakra, stabilize my karma, and clean my aura with one single slap!

Experts: A serving size is 10 chips.

Me: I eat 10 chips while standing in the pantry with the bag open, trying to decide if I want to eat chips.