



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

March 15, 2026

Guest Column by Linda Dickman

2 Timothy 1:9 (English Standard Version) ...*who saved us and called us to[a] a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began ...*

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini: *“Work in me, oh adorable Heart of Jesus, because you know well how incapable I am of doing perfectly everything that you want of me.”*

My husband and I watched the movie "Cabrini" last night. It was the story of a young girl with compromised lungs due to tuberculosis, who had a dream of serving the Lord.

She had specific rules for what SHE wanted to do: she wanted to love and care for the orphaned children of one specific place. Sadly, she was discouraged throughout her quest to accomplish her dream. She visited the highest authority of her church. She had a stack of letters that said "no." Mother Cabrini did not stop there, she went to Rome, met with the Pope, who also told her no. And then, he gave her a very specific instruction, completely opposite of her desire.

Maria Francesca Cabrini went to America and set out to take care of orphans, taking them out of squalor and giving them a bed, a meal, clean clothes, and schooling. She even went into the tunnels beneath New York City to retrieve children, at great risk to herself and her company of nuns. She heard words that no one should hear, describing her background in racial slurs. She heard "no" more than she heard almost anything but the voice of God, propelling her forward in love for the abandoned children of New York City. She suffered health setbacks and was told she would die if she did not stop. Propelled by her love of the children, and in NYC, the Italian children who were treated like vermin, she established an orphanage and so much more. In the armor of her habit, she set out to conquer the authorities, and she won.

Some members of our congregation discussed outreach yesterday in a committee meeting. We discussed ways of hearing our neighbors, meeting their needs, and helping their children. We spoke about inviting them to barbecues, tree lightings, art exhibitions, and concerts. This would bring them to the grounds, and possibly even through our doors.

And then I saw this film. I know well how many mouths SAY that they have others in mind, and how many actions betray those words. After seeing that movie, on the heels of a very important meeting, I am



even more convinced that meeting our neighbors' needs is high on the list of loving them the way Jesus does.

Mother Cabrini had a goal when she went to see the Pope. He sent her in the opposite direction and she went, beginning her quest for orphans.

A funny thing: I have heard adult after adult talk about being an orphan after their parents pass, adults who meet at "orphan meals" during the holidays at the homes of kind benefactors, so that no one is alone for those meals. A church I used to attend had community Thanksgiving meals that accomplished bringing church members together with those in the community who would have been alone. It was quite an eye-opener. There are churches that host soup suppers during Lent and have short studies that take the participants through Lent together.

Yesterday, this message of needing fellowship was voiced to me by a widower who said that hardest part for him is being alone.

I thought, "what can I do, what can we do?"

Our church is so welcoming, inclusive, and full of the love of Christ, making everyday events holy by offering meals and activities. Oh to do more!

We can do this. Together!

Because of Him,
Linda

"The world is too small to limit ourselves to one point; I want to embrace it entirely and to reach all its parts." ~ Mother Cabrini to Monsignor Scalabrini, 1887



Birthdays Blessings

March 6 – Jim Zima
March 8 – Nancy Jill
March 16 – Diane Kirchhoff
March 20 – David Dickman
April 1 – Roseanne Tast
April 5 – Don Russo
April 8 – Genevieve Dean

(If your name is missing, please e-mail Pastor Ann at pastorannsutton@yahoo.com.)

Zoom Log-On for Sunday Worship:

Meeting ID: 841 7656 2566
Passcode: 393528
Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

Welcome!

If you are a guest or worshipping with us for the first time, we bid you an especially warm welcome and ask that you sign the Visitor's Book at the south entrance to the Sanctuary. Please make yourself known to us and join us for Coffee Hour in the Narthex. Consider this an invitation to make the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn your spiritual home.

Pizza and Game Coffee Hour - Today

Leave it to our wonderful Fellowship Director, Debbie Eitel, to come up with new and interesting ideas for our church family and friends to enjoy.

Today, our Coffee Hour will take the form of a pizza and game party. Please plan on staying for fun and Christian fellowship.



Our Annual Theatre Outing

Pastor Ann ordered some extra tickets to see Chicago at Harborfields High School on Wednesday, March 25. If you did not sign up for tickets but would still like to attend, please see her. Tickets are free.

We will gather in the school cafeteria at 5 p.m. to hear the HS Jazz Band while we enjoy some coffee and goodies. Then, at 6:00, we will re-convene in the HS auditorium to watch the spring musical,



Chicago.

Upcoming Meetings

Session: Tuesday, March 24, 7:15 p.m. via Zoom.

February "Birthday Babies"

Okay, we were a bit late, but between the weather and the heat in the Sanctuary not working, as they say, "Better late than never."

Two of our February honorees, Bill Chatfield and Kathy Fitzgerald, were able to be with us on March 1 as we celebrated those born last month.



Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Mark Your Calendar!

Speaking of birthdays, our dear, sweet, Nancy MacIntyre turns 100 on October 26. We will be celebrating her birthday on Sunday, October 25, in CE / Fellowship Hall, right after worship.

Why the advance notice? We know that people's calendars tend to fill up quickly, and we also know that you won't want to miss this celebration. So, please mark your calendar now.



Nothing means more to Nancy than having her family and her church family fellowship together. This will be a memorable event!

The Ants Go Marching One by One

Spring is just around the corner, and we've already seen the first ants in our building. If you accidentally drop food or a beverage on the floor, please be sure to clean it up right away. Thank you.

Coffee Hour

Have you ever considered sponsoring a coffee hour? You don't have to be a professional baker to do so. A couple of Entenmann's cakes and a box of cookies will do. Bagels and egg salad are a popular choice as well. There are plenty of people who are able to assist you with set-ups; just ask.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Today is the deadline for reserving your space at our St. Patrick's Day Dinner, scheduled for this coming Saturday, March 21, in our CE / Fellowship Hall. It will feature traditional Irish food (corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and Irish soda bread) and entertainment from the Mulvihill Lynch Irish step-dancers.

We will begin at 5:00 p.m.; tickets are \$30. Please see Debbie Eitel to purchase tickets.



The Irish Dancers

Capital Campaign for New Windows

The new windows in the parlor and the church offices have been installed.

We will be able to save money on heating costs, and we've noticed that the noise from Pulaski Road has been cut considerably.

Jim Zima led this project. We thank him very much for the extensive amount of work that he did.

We have "borrowed" funds from the Major Repair Fund to pay for these windows. If we can replenish that fund, then we can take care of some other projects around the church building. Several folks from our congregation have already donated money toward a "matching gift" campaign to replenish this fund. Our goal is to raise \$18,000. Any amount you can give will be greatly appreciated.

You May Now Donate On Line

Simply put your cell phone into camera mode, hold it up to the funny little square thing (no need to take a photo), and the link to our church website will pop up. The "Donate" button is on the opening page. Thank you.



Laughter Is the Best Medicine

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat until the wrinkles fill out.



I'm enjoying carefully crafted potatoes with a gourmet cream sauce! (All right, I'm eating chips and ranch dip...)

That one hour we lost last weekend was the one hour I planned to get mentally stable, hydrate, respond to all my text messages, lose 10 pounds, get caught up on laundry, and regulate my nervous system. So now I just have to stay feral until the fall.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirins and keep away from children. Just like it says on the bottle.

Remember, any pan can be a nonstick pan if you just don't cook in it. Follow me for more kitchen tips.

A group of senior ladies was sitting around the table at their weekly coffee klatch, comparing medications and listing their ailments.

Margaret (86) sighed. "My arms are so weak, I can hardly hold this cup of coffee."

"I know that feeling," Joan (92) said. "My cataracts are so bad, I can't even see my coffee!"

Susan (93) chimed in. "I can't turn my head properly because of the arthritis in my neck."

Everyone nodded in sympathy.

Dot (88) added, "My blood pressure medication makes me so dizzy, I nearly pass out several times a day."

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," Eliza (96) winced.

Then Susan smiled and said, "Well, it's not that bad. Let's look at the bright side. Thank God we can still drive."