



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

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

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Pastor

February, 2023

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

I don't make New Year's resolutions any more, because it's hard to keep them for 365 days. But it's easy to keep resolutions for a month at a time, so that's what I'm doing.

I observed "Dry January" last month, and was successful in not drinking any wine for 31 days! (I don't care for beer or any of the "hard stuff.")

Normally, I drink a lot of Diet Coke, so for the month of February, I have given up soft drinks. Who knows? Maybe I'll end up giving up Diet Coke on a permanent basis, because it's really not good for the digestive system.

What to do in March, which also encompasses most of Lent? I thought of giving up cookies, but perhaps I should do something more spiritual. After praying about it, I discerned that I should tithe to our church.

"Are you saying my Pastor doesn't already tithe? Shame on her!"

Tithing has been a goal toward which I have been working for a long time. Between this church, my home church (Baiting Hollow Congregational), and various charities, I'm making progress, but I'm not there yet.

Scripture says that tithing is a way to show our trust in God. Tithing isn't for God's benefit. Let's face it – God does not need our money. Tithing is for *our* benefit, because sacrificing a portion of our income reminds us to rely on God for our needs.

If a person tithes, it doesn't necessarily mean that (s)he is a good Christian. And, if a person does not tithe, it doesn't mean (s)he is a bad Christian. Tithing is a spiritual practice, rather than a financial one. It's not about money, it's about the heart. It's about the realization that we have been abundantly blessed.



People who have done this tell me that they have been blessed above and beyond anything they could have imagined. So, during the month of March, I'm going to keep a daily log of ways I have been blessed, and I will report back to you in April.

Would you like to join me? You don't have to tell me about it if you don't want. But you decide to join me, I encourage you to keep track of the blessings you receive that are above and beyond your expectations. You might be surprised.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

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 late winter and early spring?

Now through February 12, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is **810 6717 5509**. The **Passcode** is **757038**.

February 19 through April 2, inclusive, the **Meeting ID** is **827 3040 4229**. The **Passcode** is **160435**

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

February 8 – Caroline Prentiss

February 9 – Janice Hago

February 13 – Kathy Fitzgerald

February 14 – William Chatfield

February 15 – Bob Van Cleef

March 16 – Diane Kirchhoff

March 22 – Michael Ramirez





Prayer Corner

WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE?
~ST. AUGUSTINE

It has hands to help others.
It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy.
It has eyes to see misery and want.
It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.
That is what love looks like.



LET PEOPLE CARE FOR YOU

From: The Beauty of Caring by Lloyd John Ogilvie

A dynamic expression of caring is to be able to receive caring. Let people love you! But that means to be vulnerable. People cannot care about us if they do not know our needs. We give people a special gift when we become honest and open about what's happening to and around us. Independence and self-reliance block deep caring. A person who refuses to be cared for by others will usually end up caring little about the people around him.

Share your needs, ask for others' prayers, seek their insight and wisdom. Your openness will create an openness in the people you want to help. It takes a lot of energy to keep the façade of adequacy. The mask brings strained relationships. People feel put down and guilty in the presence of a person who pretends to "have it all together."

We begin to become caring persons when we let God care for us. Then our hearts are set on fire with care for others. But the "I'm going to care for you!" attitude often sets up resistance in the very people about whom we care. Asking them for their care for you is often the first step in preparing an openness for you to care for them.

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.
Share with God's people who are in need.
Practice hospitality.
~Romans 12:12-13*



From I LOVE YOU
~ROY CROFT

I love you for the part of me that you bring out;
I love you for putting your hand
into my heaped-up heart
And passing over all the foolish, weak things
That you can't help dimly seeing there,
And for drawing out into the light
All the beautiful belongings
That no one else had looked
Quite far enough to find.

ON LOVE

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength,
While loving someone deeply gives you courage.

~Lao Tzu~

(philosopher of ancient China
and central figure in Taoism)

Love is that condition in which
The happiness of another person
Is essential to your own.

~Robert A. Heinlein ~
(American novelist)

The first duty of love - is to listen
~Paul Tillich~

(German-American theologian,
Christian existentialist philosopher)

Someone once said:
Every house where love abides and
Friendship is a guest, is surely home, and home,
Sweet home, for there the heart can rest.

~ Submitted by Betty Chatfield



January 1: New Year's Day. The sermon was titled "New Year's Resolutions." The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated. A New Year's Day party was held during coffee hour.

January 8: Celebration of The Epiphany. The Sermon was called "They Went Home Another Way."

January 15: The Baptism of Jesus. The sermon was titled "Finding Your Identity," in response to Matthew 3:17

January 22: Epiphany 3. The sermon was "Called to Follow Jesus."

January 29: Epiphany 4. We explored The Beatitudes with "Blessed Are They."



February 5: We began to unpack The Sermon on the Mount with a sermon called "Salt and Light." The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

February 12: We continued to unpack The Sermon on the Mount.

February 19: Transfiguration Sunday. A pivotal moment where human nature meets God, with Jesus himself acting as the bridge between Heaven and Earth. After worship, we will have a special coffee hour celebrating love.

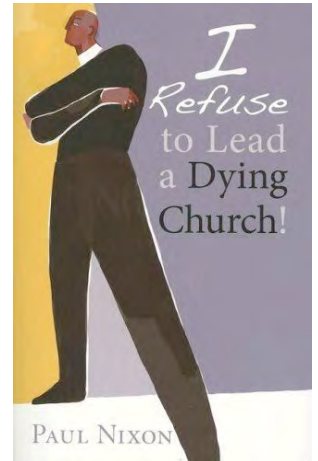
Wednesday, February 22: Our Ash Wednesday Communion Service will be incorporated into our first Lenten Soup Supper of the year at 6:00 p.m.

February 26: The First Sunday in Lent. "God So Loved the World." We will explore one of the most famous New Testament passages - John 3:15.

Session Book Study

As part of our goal to strengthen our church, the Session is embarking on a study of Paul Nixon's book, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*.

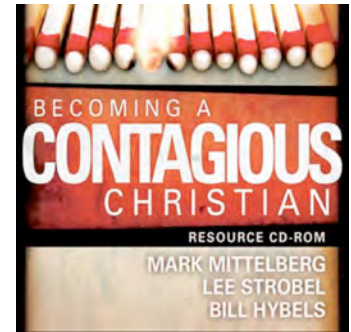
Paul Nixon is a noted author and lecturer on church growth and development. An ordained Minister in the United Methodist Church, he is President of The Epicenter Group, a coaching and leadership development organization based in Washington, DC.



Becoming a Contagious Christian

In addition to studying Paul Nixon's book, the Session will be taking a course called *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Bill Becker, who has taught this class several times in his former church, will be teaching the class for us.

Once the Session completes the course, Bill will teach it again for the benefit of the congregation. This will be a splendid opportunity for us to explore and renew our faith as we prepare to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.



Welcome Table

Have you noticed our new Welcome Table near the south entrance to the church?

It is our goal to be intentional in giving a warm welcome to visitors to our church. They will be given a "goodie bag" and will be encouraged to leave their contact information so we may thank them for attending.

All that is missing is a smiling face from our church to greet these people. We are asking church folks to volunteer to staff this table on a monthly basis. There will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome Table. Please help!



Wednesday Night Lenten Services

“Is it soup yet?” Remember that old commercial?

Yes, it’s soup! And chili, and bread, and a few other things as well.

Our Wednesday Night Soup Suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and go through March 29. They will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end when everyone is full and happy!

Please invite your friends, and decide what kind of soup you want to bring. We like to have about five different kinds of soups each week.

Want to attend but don’t like to drive at night? Please see Pastor Ann, and we will arrange a ride for you.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, January 29. During the meeting, we accepted the Annual Report and reviewed the budget for 2023. Bill Becker was elected to Session, Gary Prentiss was re-elected, and Marian Adams’ election last fall was affirmed. Copies of our Annual Report are available in the church office for those who were unable to attend the meeting.

Congregational Care Committee

Our Congregational Care Committee, under the leadership of Arlissa Dean, meets on an informal basis to discuss the needs of our members and how the committee can assist.

Do you have a heart for caring for others? Talk to Arlissa about joining this kind and helpful group.



February 14 is National Donor Day

Valentine’s Day has a new meaning when you need an organ transplant to survive. 120,000 Americans, who are currently waiting for precious organ transplants, depend on people to sign up with their state’s organ donor registries on National



Donor Day every February 14. It’s a more concrete way to show love than giving heart-shaped candy, roses, or red velvet teddy bears. By donating organs such as corneas, tissue, marrow, platelets, and blood, you create a living legacy of your generosity with the ultimate gift of love.

In New York State, you may log onto the New York State Donate Life Registry for information on becoming an organ or tissue donor. You may also sign up when you renew your driver’s license.

Blest & Co.



The thrift store, *Blest & Co.*, is open. Be sure to stop by. Hours are Thursdays 11 – 3, Fridays 11 – 3, and Saturdays 11 – 5. The store is located in the double classroom downstairs. You may park your car on the east side of the church and enter via the door there.

Favorite Hymns

Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like us to sing during our celebration of worship? There are index cards and a box at the parking lot entrance to the church. Please write down your hymn request and place it in the box. Don’t forget to sign your name so we can tell you when your hymn is scheduled!



Got Junk?

Do you have things kicking around your garage/basement/attic/closets, but not enough for a full-blown yard sale? Then have we got news for you!

On Saturday, February 25, our church will be having an indoor yard sale in CE Hall. For \$35, we give you selling space, a table, a couple of folding chairs, and we'll do the publicity for you.

Remember, one person's trash can be another person's treasure!

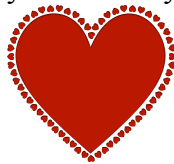
Please see Larry Foray for details, or call the church office at (631) 261-2150

Valentine's Day Karaoke Coffee Hour!

Mark your calendar for this unique event – a special Valentine's Day Karaoke Coffee Hour, Sunday, February 19, featuring "DJ Larry."

Valentine's Day Photos

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Sunday, February 19, by placing wedding pictures on the Communion Table. We'll have fun playing "Guess the Bride and Groom" during our Karaoke Coffee Hour.



And, if a wedding photo is not appropriate for you, how about a photo from your high school prom instead? Everyone will enjoy seeing photos of our church family from back in the "good old days!"

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



I'm not saying I'm old. I'm just saying that my dinner time and my bed time are getting dangerously close to each other.

So I was in a shoe shop this morning trying on a shoe. I said to the salesclerk, "It's too tight.

She said, "Try it with the tongue out."

I said, "It's thnho hood. It's ththill thoo thight."

When I was a kid, there were two ways to die: natural causes, and talking back to your parents.

Yesterday, my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly.

Today, I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.

As you get older, your secrets are safe with your friends ... because they can't remember them either!

A Senior's Version of Facebook

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up," and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook.

I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist!