



The Steeple Chimes

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

March, 2023

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Church Family,

Because not everyone is able to attend our Annual Meeting, I would like to use this space to reprint my annual Pastor's Report.

I feel beyond blessed that God has sent me to this church and congregation. Please find the report below.

2022 – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR / PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef



I am finishing my third year at First Presbyterian, and am thankful to God for calling me here.

As I stated in last year's Annual Report, a Pastor's call is not just as a faith leader, but also as a CEO. This report covers both, but leans a bit more heavily on my administrative duties here at First Presbyterian.

Worship Leader: With the exception of four vacation Sundays and one Continuing Education Sunday, I led worship for 46 Sundays, five Wednesday Night Lenten Services, one Christmas Eve Service, and two Blessing of the Pets Services. I co-led Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday Services with Rev. James Rea (Bethany) and Rev. Wade Pond (Sweet Hollow). I officiated at a Memorial Service Carolyn Brockett on Saturday, May 21, and at a Memorial Service for Ginny Soergel on Saturday, June 25. I celebrated The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday, and officiated at the Ordination and Installation of Elders on January 9.

Presbytery of Long Island: I attended Presbytery meetings on January 29, April 30, and June 25 (for one hour). Unfortunately, the September Presbytery meeting was held the same day as our Church Fair. We were delighted to have General Presbyter Rev. Mark Tammen preach at our 150th Anniversary Homecoming Service on October 23.

Continuing Education: January 21 - Church History Class (1 hour); April 1 – Church History Class (1 hour); May 6 – Church History Class (1 hour); May 10 – 11 – Church Administration (8 hours); May 18 – Half-day Retreat (3 hours); June 11 – Pastoral Self Care (1.5 hours); June 11 –

Church Growth (1.5 hours); August 27 – Jewish denominations (1 hour); August 28 – Three Reflections on Spiritual Growth (1 hour); September 11 – Towers of Worship (1 hour); October 4 – NY State Mandated Sexual Harassment Prevention Training (1.5 hours); October 19 – Half-day Retreat (3 hours); October 30 – Three Ways of Soul Searching (1 hour); November 5 – Paul Nixon Zoom Class (1.5 hours). Total – 27 hours of Continuing Education. 25-hour requirement fulfilled.

Meetings: I moderated ten Session Meetings, two Congregational Meetings, and one informal Congregational Meeting. I attended all Finance Committee Meetings, and met privately with Committee Moderators throughout the year.

Steeple Chimes: I write and publish The Steeple Chimes 11 times a year, and thoroughly enjoy doing so.

Women’s Choir: I rehearse and direct the Women’s Choir. We sang on Easter Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, 150th Anniversary Sunday, and Lessons and Carols Sunday. I am very proud of this group and the musical progress they have made.

Church Fair and Christmas Fair: This year, I ran the Yard Sale portion of the Church Fair in September, as well as the Christmas Fair. These events don’t make a ton of money, but they do build fellowship among our members, and are an excellent outreach into the community.

Hosting: Bob and I hosted luncheon for the January Session Meeting, and for the congregation on Pentecost Sunday. In July, we invited the entire congregation to our home in Greenport. We were thrilled that so many people attended. The 2023 event is slated for Saturday, August 5th – mark your calendars!

Hopes for 2023: We are starting the year with a “Faith Budget.” In other words, we have less money coming in than we plan on spending. I am hoping that we can find ways to end the year “in the black” by both cutting down on spending and increasing revenue. We are also taking steps to increase church growth, in both faith and membership. To achieve this, the Session will be doing a book study, Bill Becker will be leading a class called “Becoming a Contagious Christian,” and we will be putting a lot of effort into being even more welcoming to our visitors this year.

Thank You to our outstanding staff: Leonora Colletti (Administrative Assistant and Organist through October); Leonora Knight (Worship Accompanist, October – present); Debbie Eitel (Fellowship Director) and Gary Prentiss (Custodian) for constantly going above and beyond the call of duty. Much love and thanks to our volunteer staff members Jim Dean (Treasurer); Betty Chatfield (Financial Secretary); Susan Perrotta (Benevolence Secretary and Recording Clerk of Session); Irene Lang (Webmaster); and Larry Foray (Building Use Manager) for the hours you spend for the good of this church. Thank you to our Session members for your wisdom and devotion. Thank you to retiring Session member Diane Kirchhoff for your sage advice and legal expertise. And finally, thank you to the members and friends of FPC Greenlawn for your love and support of our church, and for your faith in God.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Ann



Birthday Blessings

March 16 – Diane Kirchhoff
March 22 – Michael Ramirez

April 8 – Genevieve Dean
April 15 – Timothy Dean
April 15 – Diane Hartmann
April 27 – Valerie Prentiss
April 27 – Bob Arelt



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 April 2, inclusive:

The **Meeting ID** is **827 3040 4229**. The **Passcode** is **160435**

April 9 through May 21, inclusive:

The **Meeting ID** is **811 4762 6880**. The **Passcode** is **513956**

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.



Prayer Corner

THE DIFFERENCE

~Anon

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me;
He said, "But you didn't seek."
I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock;
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

PRAYER

~From an old English Inn

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun,
a bit o' work, and a bit o' fun;
Give us all in the struggle and splutter,
our daily bread and a bit o' butter.

Give us, Lord, a chance to be our goodly best,
brave, wise, and free,

Our goodly best for ourselves and others,
till all men learn to live as brothers.

MIRACLE

~Phillips Brooks

Do not pray for easy lives;
pray to be stronger men.
Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers,
pray for powers equal to your tasks.
Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle,
but you shall be a miracle.
Every day you shall wonder at yourself,
at the richness of life which has come to you
by the grace of God.

This is an impressive poem that was later set to music, written by Howard Walter while in his early twenties. You'll notice the subtle difference in the last line. While secular society uses the phrase: Laugh ~ Love ~ Live. Mr. Walter captured the spirit that we as Christians try to use: Laugh ~ and Love ~ and Lift...as we try to be encouragers and lift up one another.

MY CREED

~Howard Arnold Walter

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care.
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer,
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would be friend to all—the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift.
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up—and **laugh**—and **love**—and **lift**.

FRIENDSHIP

~E. Fiock

Friendship is a precious word,
we treasure it with care;
Life without your special friends
would be forlorn and bare.
Friends, like garden flowers, grow
from seed and bud and bloom
Within the garden of the heart
in a chosen corner room
Within our daily thoughts they live
surrounded by our love.
Friends, like garden flowers,
are gifts from heaven above.

~ Submitted by Betty Chatfield



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 had a special coffee hour celebrating love.

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

February 26: In a sermon called “Self Interest, Trust, and Loyalty,” we explored the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness.



March 5: The 2nd Sunday in Lent. “God So Loved the World. We explored one of the most famous of all New Testament passages – John 3:16. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated.

March 12: The 3rd Sunday in Lent. Minister Glenn Rubin’s sermon is titled: “Come and See a Man Who Told Me Everything I’ve Ever Done.”

March 19: The 4th Sunday in Lent. Can people who are logical thinkers manage to follow Jesus? You’ll find out in the sermon, “A Logical Choice.”

March 26: The 5th Sunday in Lent. We are given a hint of the concept of the Resurrection when Jesus brings his friend, Lazarus back from the dead. The sermon is called, “Raised from the Dead.”

Maundy Thursday Service

We have been invited to attend the Maundy Thursday Service at The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow (95 Old Country Road, Melville, NY) on Thursday, April 7, at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Wade Pond will lead the Service.



Good Friday Service

In order to accommodate our many seniors who don’t care to drive at night, our Good Friday Service will take place in our Sanctuary on Friday, April 7, at 3:00 p.m.

The Service is tentatively titled “The Seven Last Words of Christ,” and will last 30 – 40 minutes. Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef will lead the Service.



Easter Flowers

Once again, we have the opportunity to dedicate Easter flowers in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The flowers are \$12 each, and the choices are: tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and Easter lilies. You may send your check to the church office (497 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn, NY 11740). Please include a note telling us your name, what flowers you want, and to whom they are dedicated. Checks may be made out to FPC Greenlawn. Thank you.





Lenten Soup Suppers

Two more Lenten Soup Suppers are scheduled this season: March 15 and 29.

We have already had three very successful soup suppers with a variety of soups, bread, chili, and dessert offered. An average of 25 people each week have been enjoying food, fellowship, and a short Service.

On March 8, we were treated to a performance by The SpiritLifters (pictured above), who sang some favorite hymns and other religious songs. They will sing again at our March 29 Soup Supper.

Mark your calendar for these special Lenten events.

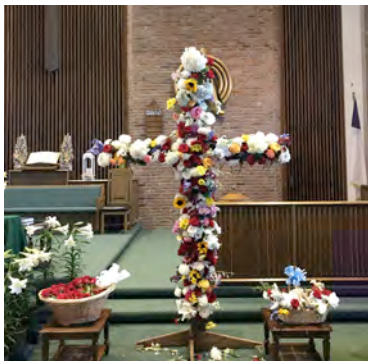
Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, April 2, we will celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Our Service is at 10:30 a.m. Please join us.



Easter Sunday

On Sunday, April 9, at 10:30 a.m., we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection and triumph over death



with a joyful Service of Worship. The choir will sing, the congregation will sing beloved Easter hymns, and we will celebrate our traditional Flowering of the Cross.

“Newsies” at Harborfields High School

Harborfields High School has extended an invitation for all Seniors in the area to attend a *free* performance of their spring musical, *Newsies*, inspired by the Newsboy's strike of 1899 in New York City.

The performance takes place on Wednesday, March 22. Dessert and coffee will be served at 5:00 p.m., and the musical itself begins at 6:00. If you are interested in attending, we have two tickets left – please see Pastor Ann if you are interested.

There will not be a Soup Supper that night.



Bell Choir

Good news! After an absence of many years, we're going to start up our Bell Choir again, with Marian Adams leading us.

The ability to read music is very helpful; please speak to Marian during Coffee Hour if you are interested in joining. Rehearsals will take place in the daytime during the week, and will be starting soon.



Got Junk?

Do you have things kicking around your garage/basement/attic/closets, but not enough for a full-blown yard sale? We are already preparing for our September Church Fair. You may bring your contributions to church at any time and place them on the desk in room #3 downstairs.



On Saturday, May 20, we will be holding a Health Fair in our CE Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have several health-related participants already signed up to staff tables: Huntington Hospital, Northport VA Medical Center, Alzheimers Association, Senior Helpers, Paul Goldhirsch (Long-term Care Insurance), Suffolk County Visiting Nurse Service, and the list keeps growing!

There will be coffee, snacks, and door prizes. Our CE Hall has a chair lift, and, as you know, there is plenty of parking.

Please help us to spread the word.



The Vision and Outreach Team is exploring the idea of running a one-week Vacation Bible Camp this summer. The first thing we need to know is – do we have enough volunteers to make this dream a reality? Please speak to Bill Becker during coffee hour if you are interested in this project.

Surveys

As we envision the future of our church, the Vision and Outreach Team would like to have your input. Surveys about what we do well and what we could be doing better have been distributed with our Sunday bulletins, and will soon be mailed to members of our church. Please fill out your survey and return it to the church; your input is needed.

Opinion Piece

By Bill Becker

Just briefly looking at Facebook. I am so disgusted by the negativity toward Christianity.

From the narratives, one can't help but think that much of it comes from the perception of the church.

What so many see is the Joel Osteens of the world, preaching from the pulpit of their megachurches, raking in millions, and living like millionaires.

The greatest percentage of churches are barely hanging on by their fingernails. Their pastors are primarily underpaid. And still, these churches serve their communities with food pantries and other community services.

This is why I am so passionate about things like the Health Fair, Vacation Bible Camp, etc. It is SO important to portray the true face of Christianity. We are commanded by Christ to be the servants of the people. The people are not to be the church.

I don't want to sound preachy, and I know I'm preaching to the choir. But our mission as a vision/outreach team is to imagine ways to present a positive image of the church.

I feel so blessed to be a part of a team so dedicated to this goal.

Your Brother in Christ,
Bill



On Saturday, February 25, our church held an indoor yard sale. Ten families participated, and many people from the community attended. We made around \$700, and the participating families did well. We hope to have another indoor yard sale soon. Stay tuned for updates!

Valentine's Day Fun

On Sunday, February 19, we celebrated Valentine's Day (a bit late). Several folks brought in wedding photos, and we had fun playing "Guess the Bride and Groom."

"DJ Larry" brought in karaoke machine, and we enjoyed singing love songs to one another.

Who says church can't be fun!



Pickleball

Have you jumped on the pickleball bandwagon yet?

"What is pickleball?" you may ask. It's a game resembling tennis, where players use paddles to hit a perforated plastic ball over a net. It has been played in the Pacific Northwest for decades, and is now gaining popularity all over the country.

Our friends at The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow have turned their Social Hall into a pickleball court, and are renting it to players for \$30 an hour as a means of raising funds for the church. It's a private indoor court with easy access and restrooms available. If you know of anyone who is interested, they may call (631) 367-9249 to reserve a time.



I just found out that the neighborhood had a meeting about a crazy person on the block.

It's weird that they didn't invite me.

A Pennsylvania man is suing Smart Water for not making him smart.

I would like to formally announce my lawsuit against Thin Mints.

90% of being married is just shouting "What" from other rooms.

The biggest joke on humankind is that computers have started asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

A friend suggested horse manure on my strawberries. I'm not doing that again. I'm going back to whipped cream.

When older people say, "Enjoy them while you're young," they're talking about your knees and hips, not your kids.

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