



# *The Steeple Chimes*

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

*Late Summer, 2024*

## **Pastor's Message**

My Beloved Church Family,

Each year, I like to share the Pastor's report that I submit as part of the January Annual Report packet to the congregation.

I am very proud of everything that this congregation accomplished in 2023. Please read and enjoy!

### **2023 – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR / PASTOR**

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

As I stated in previous Annual Reports, a Pastor's call is not just as a faith leader, but also as a CEO. This report covers both. It also includes items that would normally be in the Music and Worship report.

**Worship Leader:** With the exception of four vacation Sundays, one Continuing Education Sunday, and one Laity Sunday, I led worship for 46 Sundays, five Wednesday Night Lenten Services, one Christmas Eve Service, and one Blessing of the Pets Service. Additionally, I led Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday Services. 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 February 12.



#### **Baptism:**

- James Frank Hallstein (Born April 30, 2023), son of Kyle James Hallstein and Giovanna Palma Hallstein, on October 29.

#### **Weddings:** I officiated at three weddings in 2023:

- Andrew and Anna Schweighardt, FPCG Sanctuary, March 18,
- Joseph Mazzola and Bianca Terilli Mazzola, FPCG Sanctuary, April 18.
- Deneen Gabler and Arthur Blazek, Backyard Wedding, August 26

#### **Funerals and Memorial Services:** I officiated at six Funerals / Memorial Services / Burials in 2023

- January 14: Memorial Service for Ronald (Ron) Lievendag (co-officiated with Rev. Fred Woodward)
- April 27: Funeral Home Service for Carol Ann Eitel
- April 28: Graveside Service for Carol Ann Eitel
- May 27: Graveside Service for Carol Ann Becker (wife of church member Bill Becker)
- August 22: Funeral Service for Kenneth Longstreet
- December 8: Graveside Service for Ronald Ulrich (brother of church member Corinne Burdett)

- December 13: I did not officiate, but our church hosted the Memorial Service for my husband, Robert A. Van Cleef

### **Community Outreach:**

- Our church hosted a recital of Leonora Knight's voice and piano students on April 23.
- I ran the church portion of the Indoor Yard Sale on February 22, the Yard Sale portion of the Church Fair in September, and 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.
- The Blessing of the Pets in early October was a community outreach for us.

**Purchases and Gifts to Our Church:** We were thrilled to receive a Steinway upright piano from the Lievendag family. The Steinway now sits in the Narthex; the piano that had been in the Narthex was moved upstairs to CE Hall. We also purchased a new refrigerator, which was sponsored by Memorial gifts from many church members and friends. This will enable us to dispose of a 30-year-old commercial (and energy consuming) refrigerator that has outlived its usefulness.

**Presbytery of Long Island:** I attended Presbytery meetings on January 28 (Zoom) and, April 22 (West Islip). I requested an excused absence from the June 17 meeting, due to a schedule conflict with the NY Conference Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls. We also received an excused absence from the September 30 meeting, as it was the rain date for our Church Fair. I attended the 7-hour Boundary Training event sponsored by the Presbytery on October 25 at Babylon Presbyterian. We were delighted to have Interim General Presbyter Rev. Kate Jones-Calone as one of the readers for our Lessons and Carols Service on December 17.

### **Continuing Education:**

- Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a special class for Pastors, January and February, 6 sessions, 15 hours total;
- United Church of Christ training for Ministers, May 16 and 17, Homer, NY, 8 hours
- Pastor's ½ Day Retreat, May 23, 4 hours
- Cultural Training for Ministers, June 15, 6 hours
- NY State mandated Anti Sexual Harassment Training, September 26, Liverpool, NY, 2 hours
- Mandated Boundary Training with Presbytery of Long Island, October 25, 6 hours
- Pastor's ½ Day Retreat, December 5, 4 hours
- 44 hours total. 25-hour requirement met.

**Meetings:** I moderated ten Session Meetings and one Congregational Meeting. I attended Finance Committee Meetings and Buildings and Grounds Meetings when there were no schedule conflicts, and met privately with Committee Moderators throughout the year.

**Steeple Chimes:** I write and publish The Steeple Chimes. My goal was to publish monthly, but this year, my husband's illness made that impossible. Six editions were published in 2023.

**Women's Choir:** I rehearse and direct the Women's Choir. We sang on Easter Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, for the Suffolk Association Meeting, Thanksgiving Sunday, Bob Van Cleef's Memorial Service, and Lessons and Carols Sunday. I am very proud of this group and the musical progress they have made.

**Hosting:** Bob and I hosted luncheon for the January Session Meeting, and for the congregation on Pentecost Sunday. In August, we invited the entire congregation to our home in Greenport. We were thrilled that so many people attended. I hosted a repast for guests who came to Bob's Memorial Service on December 13; many thanks to chef Gary Prentiss for outstanding work.

The 2024 "Greenport Get-Together" is slated for Saturday, August 3 – mark your calendars!

### **Guest Ministers and Speakers:**

- April 23: we observed Holocaust Memorial Sunday, paying tribute to those who were murdered as a result of the atrocity of the Holocaust. Rabbi Gadi Capela of Congregation Tifereth Israel and Project-Genesis Interfaith was our guest speaker.
- Stephanie Regis served as Pulpit Supply in early June.
- On May 7, we had “Mix-It-Up Sunday where we all did something out of the ordinary. Members of our church led worship, I played piano, and Marian Adams gave an inspiring sermon.
- Rev. Ryan Henderson of the NY Conference Staff, United Church of Christ, was the guest preacher at Bob Van Cleef’s Memorial Service on December 13.
- Dr. Don Russo and Glenn Rubin, M.Div., serve as Pulpit Supply when Pastor Ann is on vacation, and have been invited back again and again.

**Guest Musicians:** We were happy to have pianist John Eyre play for us twice this year. Leonora Colletti played for weddings and funerals. Colin Van Tuyl played trumpet for a Memorial Service. Jack Knight delighted us with his ‘cello playing on several Sundays. Pastor Ann played flute on several occasions and gave us a “Guy Lombardo” version of *Auld Lang Syne* on the saxophone on New Years Eve. And, our favorite Christian band, The SpiritLifters, played twice at our Lenten Services.

Leonora Knight sang for us on several occasions, as did two of her students: Catarina Rasizzi and Olivia Evola. Debbie Eitel is our favorite alto soloist, and Pastor Ann sang a solo or two during the year.

**Celebrations and Hopes:** At our January 2024 Stated Meeting of Session, we *celebrated* some of our 2023 accomplishments. They included the purchase of a new refrigerator, having three indoor yard sales, moving the Christmas Eve Service to 5:00 p.m., our magnificent Women’s Choir, interfaith partnerships (giving the St. Francis youngster rehearsal space for their Christmas Pageant, and partnering with the Suffolk Association, UCC, in a Church World Service project); and the Becoming a Contagious Christian class. Some *hopes* for 2024 include purchasing a dishwasher, getting rid of the commercial refrigerator in the kitchen, continuing our Session book study of *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church* by Paul Nixon; upgrading our sound system, building an outdoor Prayer Garden, establishing our property boundaries, and keeping the church yard clear of trash and branches all year.

**Thank You** to our outstanding staff: Leonora Colletti (Administrative Assistant); Leonora Knight (Worship Accompanist); 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 committee chairpersons Bob Arelt (Buildings and Grounds); Debbie Eitel (Christian Education); Arlissa Dean (Congregational Care); Betty Chatfield (Finance); Kathie Gerlach (Missions); and to all our Session members for your wisdom and devotion. Thank you to retiring Session member Craig Satterlee for your buildings and grounds work, and especially being our volunteer electrician. And finally, thank you to the members and friends of FPC Greenlawn for your love and support of our church, and your faith in God.

With love and blessings,

*Pastor Ann*

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef

**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 is the Meeting ID?**

From now through September 8: **Meeting ID: 873 3089 9585 Passcode: 192961**

From September 15, 2024 – June 29, 2025: **Meeting ID: 813 0261 1379 Passcode: 039859**

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 above.)

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 – Lydia Mott  
August 4 – Priscilla Jahier  
August 8 – Kathleen Remauro  
August 14 – Leonora Knight  
August 23 – Brianna Rexon  
August 31 – Ruth Satterlee

September 2 – Pastor Ann Van Cleef  
September 7 – Bob Eitel  
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 – Alex Kirchhoff





# Prayer Corner

## **MORNING PRAYERS**

~Robert Schuller

Good morning, God!  
I am so glad that you are my friend.  
Together we make a great team.  
I am not afraid of anything  
when you are beside me.  
It will be a good day if you  
will think through my brain,  
talk through my tongue,  
and smile at people through my face.  
In my work or play,  
may my friends and even strangers  
see that I love you. Amen.

## **LABORERS' BEATITUDES**

~Joan Rosenthal

Blessed are they  
who work with enthusiasm,  
for they shall sleep with ease.

Blessed are they  
who continually improve their skills,  
for their work shall be an everlasting challenge.

Blessed are they  
who encourage their coworkers,  
for they shall work among friends.

Blessed are they  
who take pride in their work,  
for their work shall speak well of them.

*It is only through labor and prayerful effort,  
by grim energy and resolute courage,  
that we move on to better things.*

~Theodore Roosevelt

That best portion of a good man's life,  
His little, nameless, unremembered  
acts of kindness and of love.

~William Wordsworth

One ship drives east, and another west  
with the self-same winds that blow;  
"Tis the set of the sails and not the gales,  
which decides the way to go.  
Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate;  
as the voyage along through life;  
"Tis the will of the soul that decides its goal,  
and not the calm or the strife.  
~Ella Wheeler Wilcox

## **HE HAS ACHIEVED SUCCESS**

~B. A. Stanley

He has achieved success who has lived well,  
laughed often, and loved much;  
who has gained the respect of intelligent men  
and the love of little children;  
who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;  
who has left the world better than he found it,  
whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem,  
or a rescued soul;  
who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty  
or failed to express it;  
who has always looked for the best in others  
and given the best he had;  
whose life was an inspiration;  
whose memory, a benediction.

## **UNEXPECTED SURPRISES**

~Samuel Longfellow

Into all our lives, in many simple, familiar, homely  
ways, God infuses this element of joy from the  
surprises of life, which unexpectedly brighten our  
days, and fill our eyes with light.

He drops this added sweetness into his children's  
cup, and makes it to run over.

The success we are not counting on, the blessing we  
were not trying after, the strain of music in the  
midst of drudgery, the beautiful morning picture  
or sunset glory thrown in as we pass to or from our  
daily business, the unsought word of  
encouragement or expression of sympathy, the  
sentence that meant for us more than a writer or  
speaker thought – these and a hundred others that  
everyone's experience can supply are instances of  
what I mean.

~ Submitted by Betty Chatfield



## **Maria S. Hottinger**

(August 17, 1935 – June 25, 2024)

Maria was born in Switzerland on August 17, 1935, and grew up in a foster home. She did not have a happy childhood but was inspired by her Pastor who encouraged her to replace her fears with faith. This became her philosophy for the rest of her life.

She married and moved with her husband to the United States where they had four children together. The marriage ended in divorce. She then met and married John Hottinger, and they enjoyed a long and happy marriage together.

In addition to running a household and raising her children, Maria had an active life as a volunteer. A longtime member of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn, she served as a Deacon, Treasurer of the Deacon Board, and ran the Food Pantry. Additionally, she volunteered at Carillon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Huntington, and Hands on Huntington, a town program that offers health, maintenance, and transportation services to senior citizens. In November of 2011, Maria received the Older Adult Ministry Award from Flushing-based United Adult Ministries in recognition of the “good work she does for senior citizens.” She was recognized in Newsday for this accomplishment.

Maria is survived by her four children, Helen, Rennie, Philip, and Peter, as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many friends.

A Funeral Service was held on June 30 at Brueggemann Funeral Home with Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef officiating. She was buried with her husband John in Northport Rural Cemetery.



*Maria, on her wedding day to John Hottinger.  
Below is something that was included in her funeral  
bulletin, at her request.*

### **Live by Faith**

We struggle to keep up the pace. Sometimes we wonder why. Fear says we'll never win the race, but FAITH tells us to try!

There is no one there to comfort us. We're lost and all alone. Fear drives us far away from God, but FAITH brings us back home.

We need to place our TRUST in HIM, although we cannot see. Our fears can bind us evermore, but FAITH will set us free.

To walk in FAITH or run in fear? It's up to us to choose. To walk in FAITH will win the race. To run in fear – we lose.



**Services of Worship:**

- June 2: Jesus was a rule-breaker in many ways. The sermon was called, “Doing the Right Thing, Even If It Means Breaking the Rules.” The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated.
- June 9: “Who Is Our Family?” Not necessarily our blood relatives. Our family members are those, like us, who seek to do the will of God.
- June 16: Father’s Day Sunday. We thanked God for the great gift of fathers and other men who have touched our lives.
- June 23: “Quiet in the Storm.” God does not promise to quiet the storms. God promises to give us the strength to withstand them.
- June 30: “What’s the Use?” When things happen that are beyond our ability to control or change, being a person of faith is always the best choice.
- July 7: The Service had a patriotic theme. Our sermon concerned the greatest of all commandments: Love Your Neighbor as You Love Yourself.” The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated.
- July 14: Dr. Don Russo explored passages from Matthew in a sermon called, “What Law? Who Said?”
- July 21: “Like a Shepherd, Like Sheep.” We were encouraged to follow our one and only Good Shepherd who brings light and healing to our world.
- July 28: The feeding of the 5000 is indeed a familiar story. In “A Treasure in a Familiar Story,” we looked at the reading in terms of the compassion that Jesus had for the hungry crowd.
- August 4: In a sermon titled “Bread from Heaven,” we explored the difference between bread that nourishes the body and

bread that nourishes the soul. Melissa Maravell was our guest soloist. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated.

- August 11: We continue with Jesus’ discourse on “I Am the Bread of Life.
- August 18: “Kairos Living in a Chronos World: We will talk about clock and calendar time (Chronos) as opposed to the time of opportunity, when we lose all thoughts of time (Kairos). Guess which one has to do with God!
- August 25: “Home Runs and Re-Runs.” The sermon that hit a home run with our congregation that they voted to gear again was “Doing the Right Thing, Even If It Means Breaking the Rules.”

**Upcoming Services:**

- September 1: We observe Labor Day Weekend by discerning, “Do we work too much?” The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated.
- September 8: “Ephphatha – Be Opened!” With those words, Jesus opens the ears of a deaf person. Are our ears opened enough to hear the Word of God?
- September 15: “Who do You Say That I Am?” Jesus’ resumé can be either wonderful or terrible, depending on how you look at it. We’ll look at both sides.
- September 22: “Wisdom from Above.” Let’s try not to rely only on ourselves for wisdom. God is always there for us.
- September 29: “Be Like Esther.” God gave us the ability to solve most of our problems. We will look at how Esther solved the problem of an almost hopeless situation.



“Its from our church... we’ve been called up for active duty.”



**Honor Thy Father**

As is our tradition, we placed photos of our Dads and other important men in our life on the Communion Table for Father’s Day. This was an opportunity for us to thank God for the wonderful gift of fathers.



**Plastic Bag Recycling Program**

We have learned that the local Girl Scouts are collecting plastic bags, which will eventually be turned into earth-friendly park benches. We have set up a box to accept these bags. A volunteer will take the bags to the Elwood Library, which is serving as a collection point.



Please feel free to deposit the following bags:

- Produce bags, store bags
- Ice bags, cereal box liners
- Ziploc and other re-closable bags
- Bread bags, newspaper sleeves
- Dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap

**Craig Schulman Concert a Rousing Success!**

The first of our fund-raising concerts for a new organ was a success beyond our wildest dreams. On Sunday, June 9, Broadway personality (and Commack native) Craig Schulman brought his favorite Broadway songs to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience, and followed with a “meet and greet” where he talked about his background and career.



Invited to represent the U.S. at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Les Miserables* in London, Craig Schulman is the only actor in the world to have portrayed three of the greatest musical theatre roles: The Phantom in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *The Phantom of the Opera*, Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*, and the title roles in *Jekyll and Hyde*. He has appeared with leading opera companies around the country, singing leading tenor roles in *The Tales of Hoffman*, *Tosca*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La Bohème*, *La Traviata*, *The Crucible*, and *Manon*.

As a college professor, he has taught acting at Sacred Heart University, and presents voice and musical theatre master classes at high schools and colleges. You may learn more by visiting his website: [www.CraigSchilman.com](http://www.CraigSchilman.com).

Our congregation is deeply appreciative to both Craig Schulman and Fran Roberts for presenting this outstanding musical experience.



*Craig Schulman and his former music teacher, Frances C. Roberts, who arranged for his appearance and accompanied the concert.*



### Summers at Greenlawn Presbyterian

Here at FPC Greenlawn, we “kick back” a bit in the summer. We worship informally in our air-conditioned Parlor, where comfortable seating includes couches and rocking chairs.

Our Fellowship Director, Debbie Eitel, has started a new tradition of having “Ice Cream Hour” (as opposed to “Coffee Hour”) the last Sunday of the month. This has gone over extremely well with the congregation, and we hope this new tradition will extend into the fall.



*Independence Day Service in the Parlor*

### Melissa Maravell – A Musical Treat

On Sunday, August 4, we welcomed guest singer and Greenlawn resident Melissa Maravell. Melissa spent much of her career with the New York City Opera chorus and has sung leading roles with regional opera companies around the country. In addition, she taught in the theatre department at Suffolk Community College for fifteen years.

Melissa will be one of the featured singers in our November 17 *Baroque to Broadway with a Few Stops in Between* concert. On August 4, we got a wonderful preview!



### Summer Yard Sale

People have been so good about contributing items to our Fall Church Fair, scheduled for Saturday, September 21, that our storage room was overflowing. We had to get rid of some items, because we know that more things will be coming in during the next several weeks.

We held an indoor yard sale on Saturday, August 15, priced much of the “stuff” under a dollar, and made \$316 in the process. Thank you to everyone who helped.



### The Church Fair Is Coming!

*Our Church Fair is a great Church Fair.  
Don't miss it. Don't even be late.  
It's dollars to donuts that our Church Fair  
Is the best Church Fair in our state!*

(Adapted from *State Fair*,  
with apologies to Oscar Hammerstein)

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

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 21, 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 for \$60. This is an “all-hands-on-deck” event. Larry Foray has a sign-up sheet and is ready to sign people up to help after church any Sunday.

Items for the church yard sale tables may be dropped off at church and placed in Sunday School Room #1.



## Laughter is the Best Medicine

I think I still have some unfinished procrastinating to do from yesterday.

Okay. The bills are washed, the laundry is paid, the clothes are in the oven, and the last load of dinner is in the dryer. It looks like I got my to-do list finished.

You know you're getting old when you barely do anything all day, but still need to have a nap to continue to do barely anything.

How to tell you're an adult:

- You gain 30 lbs. overnight
- You'd rather sleep than go out
- Everything hurts
- Comfort comes before style
- You have a favorite spatula
- Everything feels like a chore
- College students look like 12-year-olds
- You're always annoyed

A shout out to everyone who got through the day without taking a nap. I pulled an all-dayer yesterday. It was pretty rough.

Some people forget how to pray until the cop makes a U-turn.

I find it helps to organize chores into categories: Things I won't do now; Things I won't do later; Things I'll never do.

I hate it when people ask if I did anything exciting this week ... Like I'm over here skydiving. I'm old. I went grocery shopping, did some laundry, ate too much, and now I'm napping.

A scammer called me the other day and said he had all my passwords. "Thank goodness for that," I told him. "What are they?"

My grandson is very particular about the brand of chicken nuggets I feed him ... for someone who just ate a crayon.

You know you're over 50 when you have "upstairs" ibuprofen and "downstairs" ibuprofen.

People ask, "Do I really need Jesus to go to Heaven?" Honey, you need Jesus just to go to Walmart!

I just failed my driving test. When the examiner asked me "What sign would you expect to see down a country road?" apparently "Fresh eggs for sale" wasn't the correct answer.

## From the Pastor's Garage

It's that time of year again. I'm not talking about barbecues, I'm talking about weeds and crabgrass.

For those of us who hate weeds but don't want to put poison on our lawns and gardens, here is a recipe for a natural weed killer.

- 1 quart of white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons of Dawn dish soap
- ¼ cup salt

Put the above ingredients into a 32 oz. spray bottle and shake the bottle well. It's great for killing weeds, even in your vegetable garden. Just don't use it on bricks and pavers, as too much salt will eat away at them.



### The Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2024  
Debbie Eitel  
Larry Foray  
Susan Perrotta

Class of 2025  
Marian Adams  
Bill Becker  
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2026  
Arliisa Dean  
Kathleen Gerlach