

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Celebration of Worship
March 16, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.
The Second Sunday in Lent**

**Meeting ID: 813 0261 1379
Passcode: 039859**

Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

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Greenlawn, NY 11740
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<http://greenlawnpresbyterian.com/>

*Here might I say and sing. No story so divine: never was love,
Dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of All People, we confess that we would like to claim Your majesty and power for our exclusive benefit. We relish the good things of life and are reluctant to share with those who seem less deserving. We resist the prophets who point out our greed, even when we feel we are being generous. We resent persons in positions of authority who seem not to have our best intentions at heart. We are angry about ones whose evil deeds seem to go unpunished. O God, how can we receive Your mercy when we are so reluctant to pass it on? Help us to center our lives in Your love more than on our own desires. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Today's Pastoral Prayer will take the form of a litany: "A Litany for Ukraine.")

Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine,

As they seek refuge from the terrible effects of war.

May they find shelter in God's arm,

As they try to calm their fears.

May they find comfort in God's arm,

As they worry about where to find food and shelter.

May they find comfort in God's arm,

As they witness the death that war brings.

May they find solace in God's arm,

As they leave their homes behind to find safety.

May they find strength in God's arm.

Deliver us from the madness of believing that good can come from violence.

God hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to resist the myths of violence.

God hear our prayer.

Forgive us our pride as a super military power.

God hear our prayer.

Give us the compassion that gives birth to generosity and hospitality.

God hear our prayer.

Let us show love and mercy for those fleeing war.

God hear our prayer.

Mold us as a people of peace.

May God hear our prayers and the cries of the Ukrainian people.

All this we pray in the words Jesus taught, saying: ***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

Congregational Response:

*Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, we thank You for Your great generosity. All that we are and all that we have is a gift from You. Help us to serve one another and so reflect Your spirit and goodness. Accept these offerings and grant that the cause to which they are devoted may prosper under Your guidance. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Luke 13:31 - 35

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef
“Trusting God – Like Abraham Did”

*HYMN # 422

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door.
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise.
Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious Donor of Our Days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, Your Son.
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.*

*Treasure too You have entrusted, gain through powers Your grace conferred.
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the Gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.*

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

TUNE:

EDELWEISS

*May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace, faith in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever!
May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever.*

POSTLUDE

*Those who are willing and able are invited to stand.

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Last year's St. Patrick's Day Dinner was successful beyond our wildest dreams, so we're doing another one this year on Saturday, March 22 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The menu, featuring corned beef & cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, beverages, coffee, and dessert, will be prepared by our resident chef, Gary "O'Prentiss." Entertainment will be provided by the fabulous Mulvihill – Lynch Irish Dancers

You may purchase tickets at \$30 during coffee hour from Priscilla “McJahir” or Debbie “McEitel.” Hurry before they are all sold!

A Follow-up from Westhampton Presbyterian

We enjoyed meeting Rev. Michael Hafele last week, and hearing him preach and run our Service.

On Monday morning, Pastor Ann got a telephone call from Stu Wood, Chair of the Westhampton Pastoral Search Committee, who said that the Committee unanimously voted to call Rev. Hafele as their next Pastor. Stu thanked our congregation again for letting the Committee use our church as a Neutral Pulpit.

Ann asked Stu to please invite us to the Installation, now that we had been part of the process. The answer was, “Most definitely.” (The date has not yet been set.)

Later that morning, Ann received this e-mail from Rev. Michael:

“Thank you and your wonderful congregation so much for your amazing hospitality! Hospitality is indeed one of the many strengths of your church and please convey to your congregation my deepest appreciation and encouragement for them to continue to use that wonderful gift! My prayers go with and alongside you as the Lord guides you all!”

Lenten Challenge

Earlier this month, Pastor Ann challenged our congregation to a "40 Days, 40 (or more) Items" project for Lent. Each day in Lent, remove one or more items from your house, which you don't use or don't wear any more. Toss them, give them to someone, or donate them to our Thrift Shop. "Stuff" that clutters up our surroundings tends to distract us and even add stress to our lives. Without that "stuff," we can make more room in our lives for God. I will be posting my own progress each day on FaceBook.

Ann will be posting her own progress on her Facebook page, and invites you to “friend” her if you have not already done so. Her Facebook name is Ann Abbate Van Cleef.

Lay Worship Assistants

Starting in April, we will be using Lay Assistants to lead the Call to Worship, the Call to Confession, and the Assurance of Forgiveness. We will do this each Communion Sunday. Arlissa Dean will be coordinating this: please see her if you are interested.

Session to Meet Tuesday, March 18, 7:15 p.m. via Zoom

Session members are asked to submit their written reports for the Session Docket by tonight. Thank you.

Our Annual Theatre Outing

Our annual outing to see the Harborfields High School Spring Musical will take place on Wednesday, March 26. There is a dessert and coffee reception at 5:00 p.m., and the show, “*Mean Girls*,” starts at 6:00. The show is free, but tickets are required. There will be a sign-up sheet during coffee hour; please sign up so Pastor Ann can get tickets for you.

The Little Food Pantry

Please remember our Little Food Pantry when you go shopping. We are encouraging folks to donate packaged foods, as canned food tends to explode in the freezing weather. We are especially in need of breakfast cereal; if you go to Aldi or Lidl, you will find they have cereal at an extremely reasonable price. Thank you.

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.



STAFF

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Susan Perrotta

Webmaster

Irene Lang

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Larry Foray

THE SESSION

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2026

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach

Class of 2027

Debbie Eitel

Easter Flowers Order Form

Please enclose a check for \$12 per plant, payable to FPC Greenlawn, and give the check and order form to Betty Chatfield. Please print clearly.

I would like to order the following:

Number of plants

Name of Plants

Easter Lilies



Daffodils

Tulips



Hyacinths

Total number of plants _____ X \$12 per plant = \$ _____

Please list my plant dedication as follows:

In Loving Memory of:

In Honor of:

Your name: _____

Your e-mail address: _____

Your phone number: _____