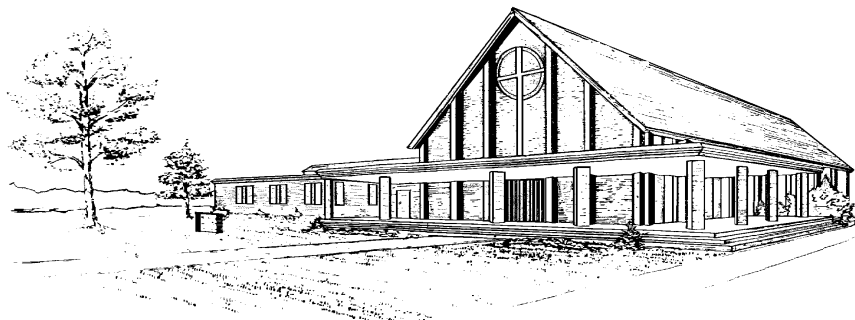


STEEPLE CHIMES

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn

ISSUE: Two Hundred Thirteen

JULY ~ AUGUST 2018



Message From the Pastor

In Jungian psychology, our “shadow” side represents the unacceptable parts of ourselves, the aspects of our nature that we don’t express because of shame. What happens with our shadow material is that we disown it, hide it, and, since it won’t stay locked away for good, project it onto others. Because those parts of us lie dormant, we are left less than whole. Jesus was instinctively aware of our tendency to disown and project our shadow material onto others. The way he put it is that we notice the speck in other people’s eyes while ignoring the log in our own.

But Carl Jung, and Jesus a long while before him, was also aware that sometimes what’s in our “shadow” isn’t “dark” at all. Sometimes it is not our shortcomings and defects of character that we are burying away, but our gifts, talents and even our calling. Sometimes it is the positive aspects of ourselves we’ve rejected because they shine too brightly, and we may have learned growing up that we were not meant to shine. Jung referred to this as the “Golden Shadow.”

Early in Mark’s Gospel, the disciples were given the authority to cast out demons (3:15). But when Jesus got them in the boat and said, “let’s take it to the limit” (4:35), his disciples flinched. They projected on him alone this power that belonged also to them. Because he was gracious enough to carry not only their negative, but also their positive projections, Jesus calmed the storm. But he invites us at every juncture to own the power he has given us.

When we disown our power by telling Jesus that all we have are a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish, he tells us to feed the people. When we tell him about the racial animus in our country that makes nobodies out of those whom he created to be somebodies, he tells us to cast it out. When we tell him about all the division in our land between red and blue states- and states of soul- he tells us to heal it. When we tell him about the painful lies that are being spoken by those at the highest echelons of power, he tells us to rebuke them. When we witness our Bible being used to curse rather than to bless, as when it is used to justify slavery or misogyny or, most recently, the inhumane separation of children from parents fleeing the violence in their countries as if from a burning building, he tells us to name, unmask and engage such powers. When we tell him that the storms raging through our land are interrupting our proclamation that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, he tells us to silence them.

Scripture teaches us that we are always at risk of disowning not only that which is dark in us, the burden of our sin, but also what is light in us, the weight of our glory. The psalmist, reflecting on the ordering of the universe, asked, “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings, and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hand; you put everything under his feet?” (Ps. 8:5; Heb. 2:7).

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What was true of Jesus is becoming true even of us. In John's Gospel, Jesus puts it this way, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these" (John 14:12).

Like the disciples in Mark's Gospel, we sometimes project indifference onto Jesus. But we discover it is not really God who is sleeping. We ourselves are the ones in need of awakening from lower self to Higher Self, the self we are in God. The good news, as John O'Donohue has put it is that "It is impossible to be on earth and to avoid awakening. Everything that happens within and around you calls your heart to awaken.... Your soul continually coaxes you to give way to the light and awaken... to be fully present to your life, to live to the full, the one life that has been given you."

But for those of us who are struggling with our golden shadow, Marianne Williamson reminds us, "You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

This summer, let us, at Jesus' prompting take it to the limit.

See you in church.

Pastor Fred

Blessed

Some of us have become disenchanted with the church because we were oversold on blessing. We may have been told that if we obeyed God's rules, God would bless us in what we desire. When God's blessing didn't arrive, or didn't come in the form we wanted, we may have concluded that there must be something wrong with our God or with us.

Maybe the problem was not so much with God or even with ourselves, but with the "gospel" that was served us only sunny-side up, a "gospel" that spiritually bypassed the Cross. Maybe the problem was that that gospel was about *us*, and not about the God we are coming to know in Jesus Christ. Maybe the problem was that that gospel told us that God wanted *our* dreams to come true and that it was up to *us* to set blessing in motion by our general positivity about ourselves. Maybe we hadn't heard that our Gospel is actually concerned with *God's* dream for our world, and the blessing *God* sets in motion. Maybe we hadn't heard that the God to whom our scriptures testify loves us too much to bless our narcissism.

A Gospel that is all about *us* will always enjoy popularity if only because it gives us less and less reason to reject Jesus! What's not to like about a Jesus that helps *us* get what *we* want, who asks nothing of *us*, and comes not to save us, but to enhance the well-being *we* have secured for *ourselves*? But such a gospel falls down in the end. Because in the last analysis, most of us need a God who is not of our own making, a "God God," as one of my friends puts it, a God who actually has the power to save and heal us since we are not especially adept at either.

With the arrival of summer, we may wish to be cut a little slack. We may not want to be told that our Christian faith has to do with downward, not upward mobility, aligning us not with the powerful but the powerless, not with those who have special standing, but with those who are discredited and counted as "undeserving". But when the Gospel becomes Gospel *for us*, when, in other words, we recognize ourselves as the powerless and undeserving ones, then the Gospel comes alive and confers a new significance on our lives and permits us to taste and share freedom in a way we never previously had.

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Paul recognized that the message of the cross will never be popular because it looks to all the world like the weakness of God. But for those of us who have found our kneeling places beneath the cross and have therefore been lifted up to our full stature, the cross is *God's power made perfect in weakness* (2 Cor. 12:9). In the cross, we do not discover private triumph, but the victory of God over everything that is killing us, including our belief that personal triumph really counts for something.

See you in church,
Pastor Fred

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES!

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE!

Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, Holmes, New York

A welcoming Christian community, responding to God's call, where lives change and faith grows in a natural setting.

~ SWIM LESSONS ~ ROW BOATS ~ ARTS AND CRAFTS ~ FISHING ~ HIKING ~ FARMING ~ CANOEING ~

TEAMBUILDING ~ PRAYER ~ TEAM GAMES ~ HIGH ROPES ~ VESPERS ~ NATURE EXPLORATION ~

LAKE SLIDE ~ 9 SQUARE ~ FAITH EXPLORATION ~ ARCHERY ~ LOW ROPES ~ SINGING ~

Consider a week at Holmes Camp for your child this summer. Information and registration brochures are in the literature rack on the table across from the church office, or visit their website at www.HolmesCamp.org.





9:30 am

July 1st
through
September 2nd

July ~ August Youth Happenings

Want to know more about the Church Youth Group?
Contact Youth Director Debbie Eitel at debbie_eitel@ibi.com



Sunday July 22 - Car Wash
2-5 PM in the church driveway

Please come out and join us for some fun & fellowship for a good cause!

Friday August 3 - Hope for the Future
Make sandwiches at the Farmingdale warehouse
(For their Outreach program in NYC)

**Meet at the warehouse at 6:30PM

131 Verdi Street Farmingdale, NY





Sunday August 26- Car Wash

2-5 PM in the church driveway

Please come out and join us for some fun
& fellowship for a good cause!

Scatter seeds
of kindness
wherever you go

PRAYER CORNER **JULY ~ AUGUST 2018**

I SAID A PRAYER FOR YOU TODAY

~Unknown

I said a prayer for you today and know God must have heard.
I felt the answer in my heart although he spoke no word!

I didn't ask for wealth or fame (I knew you wouldn't mind).
I asked him to send treasures of a far more lasting kind!

I asked that he be near you at the start of each new day;
To grant you health and blessings and friends to share your way!

I asked for happiness for you in all things great and small.
But it was for his loving care I prayed the most of all!

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.

~ Irish Blessing

*It costs you nothing to make another happy -
and you gain your true self through the act of spreading joy.*
~ Jonathan Lockwood Huie

I ASKED GOD...

~Anon

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak to humbly obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for—but everything I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am among all men most richly blessed.

Reminder for all Elders and Deacons!
Pot Luck Dinner
And
Joint Meeting

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Food and Fellowship at 6:00 PM
Joint meeting at 7:00 PM



Please remember our

Deacon's Food Pantry

The need continues throughout the summer!

As you shop for food for your family!

Cereal, fruit juices, pasta, pasta sauces, and
salad dressings are
currently needed.

The Deacons thank you for your continuing
generosity and support!



First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn



497 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, New York 11740
Phone: 631-261-2150

***Summer
Sunday Worship
9:30 AM***

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matt 19:14)

Pastor Fred's Office Hours

are from 11:00am through 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday... unless visiting or attending meetings. Outside the above hours, please call (631) 626-3702 for appointments and consultations.

OUR STAFF

Rev Frederick H. Woodward, Pastor
Linda Siegmann, Administrative Assistant
Debra Eitel, Youth Director
Margaret Negrelli, Clerk of Session
Jim Dean, Treasurer
Betty Chatfield, Financial Secretary
Nancy MacIntyre, Benevolence Treasurer

This is Your Church

As Christians, we are called to serve God by serving others. Here at Greenlawn, many members respond to that call by volunteering their time and talents in one or more of the activities that support our church and community. Volunteers care for our church and facilities, participate in our worship and music services, nurture each other in times of need, and reach out to lend a helping hand in communities near and far.

Ask yourself :
*"How is God calling **Me** to His Service?"*