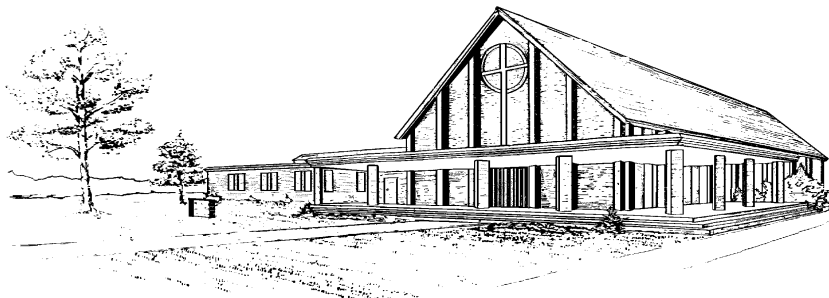


STEEPLE CHIMES

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn

ISSUE: Two Hundred Twenty-One

APRIL 2019



Pastor's Message

Actress Ethel Barrymore famously observed that "You grow up the day you have the first real laugh- at yourself." On Easter morning, April 21st, the church will join together in the giddy squeal of resurrection laughter. It is the laughter of God's possibility unbounded by human impossibility. It is the laughter of the reality of God and the unreality of all the false selves we create in the place of God. It is the joyful laughter of God who endlessly recreates the world God first created in love. It is the laughter of God who makes Easter happen again and again, for as Will Willimon once put it, Easter is not over until God says it's over.

We join together in hearty resurrection laughter in response to the sovereign word of God who breaks the grip of death that is around us and in us. That word helps us to receive the newness that is outside our control, the newness that is neither to be explained nor explained away.

According to the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 15:20-28) Christ's resurrection has set in motion a chain of events that has unleashed both our present and our future. The declaration of the Resurrection that "in Christ all will be made alive" has both a present and a future dimension.

As we experience it in the present, what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is akin to what God had done for barren Sarah when he eastered her from her hopelessness to make her the matriarch of our faith. In her giddiness in birthing Isaac, Sarah proclaimed "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me" (Gen. 21:6).

That we will participate in the resurrection not only in the present but also in the future at the last trumpet is a sure promise. So let us join together in the newness that is ours in Jesus Christ, the newness that we receive as sheer gift. Let us blow raspberries at the power of death in our lives and in the life of our world. For what the psalmist had said all along is true! "Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning... You turned our wailing into dancing; you removed our sackcloth and clothed us with joy that our hearts may sing to you and not be silent" (Ps. 30:5, 11).

See you in church!
Pastor Fred

Christ
is
Risen!

One Great Hour of Sharing

During Lent we will once again be focusing on our denomination's mission program One Great Hour of Sharing. The OGHS offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 14th.

Our gifts through this program support three Presbyterian Programs –Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

May you find Joy through sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.



Thank you

Taken By Surprise

Easter always takes us by surprise. Easter is what we never see coming, never quite dare to hope for, but that for which we have been waiting our whole lives long. Easter is being loved back to life over and over again. Because of Easter, we get to be alive when we die.

But we may be ambivalent about the Resurrection promise that “in Christ all will be made alive.” We may be slow to embrace the scandal of the Resurrection that the dead just won't stay dead. Even if joyful in our anticipation of being freed of the inky, clingy death that is all around us and in us, we may find ourselves frightened because we don't know what “being made alive” might mean for, or demand of, us. For what if life as it is given to us, unearned and undeserved, is finally beyond our management and control? What if our lives are not really our own? What if life is not about us, but we are about Life? What would it mean to really yield to such grace?

It would mean giving full consent to our healing and the healing of the world trusting in our God, who “brings life to the dead, and brings into existence the things that do not exist” (Rom. 4:17). It would mean that the face of God shall no longer have the look of a stranger, but that of the Friend who has been waiting for us and for whom we have ourselves been waiting our whole lives long.

Waking Up on Resurrection Day

The Resurrection invites our participation. We join in the resurrection here and now as we wake up from our lower selves bound up in fear to the higher selves that we are in God. We wake from our private salvation projects and programs for happiness to the sovereign love of 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.”

Submitted by Pastor Fred

April Foolishness

You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish
To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
The batteries were given out free of charge.
A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
A will is a dead giveaway.
With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
A boiled egg is hard to beat.
When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
Police were called to a day care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two-tired.
When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
Many a poet goes from bad to verse.
Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.



Submitted by Pastor Fred

Youth Happenings

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

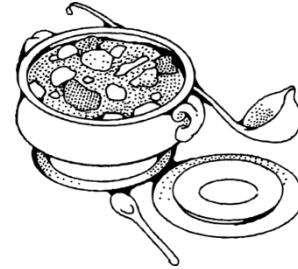


**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS
CONTINUE THROUGH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH
6:00 PM**

BRING SOUP AND/OR BREAD TO SHARE

APRIL 3rd ~ SpiritLifters

APRIL 10th ~ Christian Karaoke



**Holy Week
& Easter**

Palm Sunday ~ April 14th ~Worship at 10:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt on front lawn after worship

Good Friday ~ April 19th ~ Worship at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday ~ April 21st
Easter Breakfast at 9:00 am
Worship with Flowering of the Cross at 10:30 am

Good Friday Worship: April 19, 2019 (7:30 p.m.)

On Good Friday we assemble together not to deepen our guilt but to increase our gratitude. We join Jesus at the cross remembering that He joins us in all our own crucifixions. As Jesus' lament, "Why have you forsaken me?" becomes our own, we may experience the loss of all that gives us comfort and meaning. We risk ourselves at the Cross in the heartfelt knowledge that there is no Good News without the bad news for which our good news is so very good.



Submitted by Pastor Fred

FROM OUR MAILBOX

Hello everyone at the Greenlawn Church:

I thank all of you for your warm, well wishes to me, on my last day attending worship at the Church on Sunday morning. I am truly grateful for the Farewell Reception in the narthex after Worship. I am grateful for the cake, the gifts and the greeting cards; including all the expressions of appreciation for my contributions to the Bible studies, and the times when I've helped out at dinners and other events. I am also truly grateful for all the expressions of love that I received from all of you.

I became a member of the Church in March 1967, when I was 22 years old. Of all the things which mattered most to me at that time, the Church and it's members, are the one thing that remains. I will always regard all of you as my closest friends.

Wherever I may be attending worship after this, I intend to keep my membership in the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn. I will try to attend Worship with you occasionally, when possible.

I thank all of you again.

Bill D'Andrea



FROM JUNE SPENCE

Hi Folks!

I feel very badly on not letting you know about life here in Ohio! I gave up the majestic corn fields in Wilmington for the bright city lights of Macy's, Barnes and Nobles and bagel stores in Cincinnati in December! My son-in-law got a better job here and they had already moved last August.

My big news is that on January 5th, Nicola gave birth to Olivia Grace. She was born an emergency c section, not breathing. She spent 5 days in ICU where she suffered a seizure. Being brought to your knees is a sure way of knowing you have nowhere else to turn. And sadly it should be our first. She still has a few issues but overall she is doing very well. And yes as all you grandmothers told me.....there is nothing better!

Nina got engaged last July but to date Robin has managed to stay fancy free!!! I enjoyed a wonderful time with all three children at Nicola's baby shower in New York last November. It was the first time that we had all been together in just over three years.

I was pleasantly surprised to see an all female Session—I guess this is a first?!

So I am now looking to find a new job and church. It took me almost a year to find my church in Wilmington, leaving it was very hard. I am now on the search to find another church home and feel the way I did when I first went to Greenlawn. Can you believe that it is almost 30 years ago? I dearly miss the Flowering of the Cross, wishing each one of you a very Blessed Easter.

Well I guess that's it for now.....still miss you all !!!

Love, June

PRAYER CORNER

APRIL 2019

23RD PSALM

SEAMEN'S VERSION

~Captain Rogers

The Lord is my pilot; I shall not drift.

He leadeth me across the dark waters.

He steereth me in the deep channels.

He keepeth my log.

He guideth me by the star of holiness for His Name's sake.

Yea, though I sail amid the thunders and tempests of life,

I shall dread no danger, for Thou art with me;

Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.

Thou preparest a harbor before me in the homeland of eternity;

Thou anointest the waves with oil; my ship rideth calmly.

Surely sunlight and starlight shall favor me all the days of my voyaging,

And I will rest in the port of my Lord forever.

In order to set us free from this present evil age, Christ gave himself for our sins, in obedience to the will of our God and Father. To God be the glory forever and ever! Amen.

Galatians 1:4-5

WE THANK THEE

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

For flowers that bloom about our feet, for tender grass so fresh and sweet,

For the song of bird and hum of bee, for all things fair we hear or see,

Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For blue of stream and blue of sky, for pleasant shade of branches high,

For fragrant air and cooling breeze, for beauty of the blooming trees,

Father in heaven we thank Thee.

For this new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night,

For health and food, for love and friends, for everything Thy goodness sends,

Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

If there is righteousness in the heart,

There will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character,

There will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home

There will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation,

There will be peace in the world.

~A Chinese Proverb

COME IN
~Mary Ann Allen

Come into my home and be hugged, my friend,
Where joys begin and troubles end.
Our dreams and memories we'll blend,
And we'll speak of God's love that will never end.
Oh, praise His precious name!

The curtains are drawn, the sash is up,
The kettle sings of the warming cup.
Together we will chat and sup,
No cares of earth will our joy disrupt.
Oh, praise His precious name!

I'll tell you how He's been so true,
You tell me all He's done for you,
And we'll deeply drink of a heavenly brew
God's blessed love will there renew.
Oh, praise His holy name.

submitted by Betty Chatfield



EASTER LILIES

Orders are now being taken for the Easter Lily Memorials.
If you wish to place an order, please contact
Corinne Burdett (631-261-4636) or the church office.
Make checks payable to the church and specify for "Flower Fund"

The cost is \$20.00 per plant and the deadline for ordering is
Sunday, April 14th.

The Community Food Council of Huntington is a volunteer organization providing food for the needy in Huntington. They are in need of volunteers who are able to give at least 2 hours a month and have a desire to enrich the lives of those less fortunate. Located at 90 East Fifth Street, Huntington Station, they are open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 12 Noon. Call 631-351-1060 for more information.



Steeple Chimes Deadline

is the third Monday of each month.
Our Administrative Assistant is always looking for poems, articles,
stories of faith, and up-coming events
to share with all of you through your newsletter.

Items for Steeple Chimes can be left in the Steeple Chimes mailbox or
emailed to the church office at
fpcgoffice@gmail.com

Thank you for contributing to YOUR church newsletter.

First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn



497 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, New York 11740
Phone: 631-261-2150
[www. greenlawnpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.greenlawnpresbyterianchurch.org)
facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Greenlawn

Sunday Worship

10:30 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, Fellowship Director
Leonora Colletti, Organist
Margaret Negrelli, Clerk of Session
Jim Dean, Treasurer
Betty Chatfield, Financial Secretary
Nancy MacIntyre, Benevolence Treasure

This is *Your* Church

Church is not something you go to, it is a family you belong to.

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