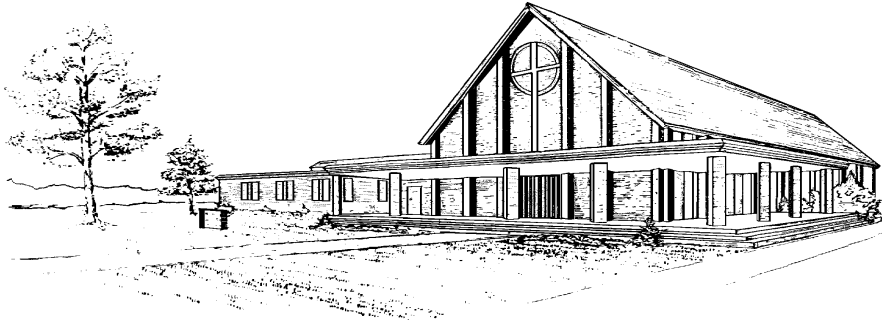


STEEPLE CHIMES

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn

ISSUE: Two Hundred Twenty-Four

JULY-AUGUST 2019



Pastor's Message

On the evening before our daughter's wedding, Frances and I were instructed in how to safely administer an IV infusion using the Sash Method of Flushing. After an exhausting Friday in NYC securing her release from Lenox Hill Hospital and a very long commute home, our late-evening home-instruction seemed at first overwhelming. My own anxiety was heightened by the knowledge that the antibiotic I was preparing was to be delivered intravenously into my loved one's heart. There could be no mistakes.

But it became a collaborative process as Frances checked my work as I went about it. And like all procedures, it came down to a series of steps describable in a flow chart, albeit with many additional instructions copiously written in by hand. After washing up and gathering supplies, and using alcohol pads to thoroughly wipe the port at each step of the process, I was directed to infuse first a saline solution, then the antibiotic itself, then another saline solution, and finally heparin, a sequence taking just over an hour. But there were flow charts within the flow chart as I learned, for example, how to prepare the antibiotic for infusion and how to change and prime the tubing, operate the drip chamber, adjust the flow rate, and so on.

We quickly learned that if the clamp outside the IV dressing were not opened, nothing could be administered. And if the internal seal to the antibiotic were not broken, it could not be mixed with the bag of saline solution. And I found myself reflecting later this is always the way it is with the heart. For the healing mercies of God to make their way to the human heart, we have to be unclamped and broken. We do neither of these things ourselves alone. But we do come to God with an offering of our own intentions. We cooperate in opening our hearts to God's healing ministrations; we give consent to God's grace at work in us.

Theologian John S. Dunne has suggested that there is not one consent in the human heart, but a series of them, each building upon the other. The first consent is to the basic goodness of our being, the unique gift of our life, which is worthy and loveable before we ever *do* anything. The second consent is to the full development of our being with all of our talents and creative energy. The third consent is to the diminution of self that occurs through illness, loss, old age, and yes, death, the final letting go of everything we love in this world. The fourth consent is to be transformed which requires us to die to everything that is false in us for the sake of relationship with the One who is True.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit that makes our consent possible. Though we may experience discomfort and even resistance at being unclamped and broken, it is our heart's desire to become open to the infusions of the Healer. It is our heart's desire to accept the invitation to learn and grow, to be transformed in ever increasing likeness to the Christ who perfectly images God. To experience such transformation is to experience God. That is our heart's desire, and in that place deep inside us we know that for the consenting heart, God's will and our own will are one.

See you in church.
Pastor Fred

Joint Meeting of the Elders and Deacons- August 13, 2019

Mark your calendars! There will be a joint meeting of the Elders and Deacons on August 13, 2019. We will begin with good food and fellowship (6:00 p.m.), and then proceed to our joint meeting of elders and deacons (around 7:00 p.m.).



Submitted by Pastor Fred

“Summer Time, and The Livin’ Is Easy”

Though they predate George Gershwin, summer vacations are a fairly recent development in American history and were received at first with skepticism. Our Puritan forbears frowned upon taking any time away from work except in the observance of Sabbath. It was only later generations of Christians, partly under the influence of the 19th century Second Great Awakening movement, who recognized the potential of summer revivals and spiritual retreats to transform the human heart.

But transformation is pretty much the last thing most of us think of when we think of summer vacations. They are our time to get away “from it all.” We may start out our vacations with the best of intentions. “Why, we’ll commune with God at the beach.” After all, can’t God be experienced by a mountain lake or on the occasion of a lovely sunset? Of course! But after a while, and apart from a worshipping community, we may discover ourselves giving attention to neither God nor neighbor, but only to an increasingly narrow version of ourselves.

My prayer for all of us is that we shall be alert to the opportunities that the summer brings us to deepen our faith in the God we are coming to know in Jesus Christ. For some of us, it might mean a spiritual retreat. For others, it might mean a rededication to spiritual practices. But for all of us, it could mean attending, in a more intentional way, to the sacramental nature of all of life.

My prayer for all of us is that we may be especially attentive to all the ways that our triune God is already at work in our world and in our own lives, and alert for the opportunities that may be given us to join God in that work. It is that which shall truly restore us; it is in that in which we shall our find true re-creation.



Submitted by Pastor Fred

Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please You
does, in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, I will trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for You are ever with me,
and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Submitted by Pastor Fred



SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1st

AT

10:00 AM



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Andrew Infranco is graduating from Northport High School. And will be attending the University of Rhode Island, College of Pharmacy in the fall. Andrew is the son of Maria Bindert.

Matthew Polcer is graduating from Harborfields High School. Matthew received the President's Achievement Award for Academics, the Tri-M Award for music, and the Maggie Missions Scholarship for Music. He will be attending Temple University in the fall to study music. Matthew is the son of Dawn and Mark Polcer.

Kenneth Walsh is completing his fifth year in his surgery residency at Rutgers NJ Medical School and begins his fellowship at North Shore/LIJ in vascular surgery. Kenneth is the son of Frances Woodward and Pastor Fred's oldest stepson.

Leave Taking



The Psalmist tells us that God will watch over our lives, our coming and going, both now and forevermore. (Ps. 121). On May 25th, we celebrated the going forth of David Hammer.

Confirmed in the faith at Greenlawn as a young teenager David renewed his vows in 2007 after the passing of his beloved father, Dick Hammer, in 2006. Taken under the wings of Rich Heiligenstadt, then head usher, David began taking on more and more responsibilities for the care of the church.

As one of the "able bodied men of the church, David helped her in countless ways, becoming in his last years at Greenlawn a deacon and co-moderator of the Deacon board. Whether playing a king in the Living Nativity, or dressing up as Santa Claus, whether arriving on his Harley in leather and helmet, or as freshly shorn of all hair for St. Baldrick's day,

David showed up and was a delight to us all.

We give thanks that God watched over his coming in and his going forth to Virginia where he and his wife, Midge, make their new home.

151 Halyard Drive
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

Submitted by Pastor Fred

Farewell to the Ebenezer Wesleyan Church of Huntington

On May 25th, we celebrated well more than a decade of shared ministry with our nesting Haitian congregation under the pastorate of the Rev. Rochemond St. Louis. Beginning in 2009, our congregations began sharing joint worship on World Communion Sunday, exchanging the pulpit and the liturgical space between the two congregations in seriatum. When in 2011, the Haitian congregation took on its new name, Ebenezer Wesleyan Church (EWC) of Huntington, our congregation presented our sister congregation with a stone marker, the congregation's own "stone of help," which is what "Ebenezer" means in Hebrew. Little did either congregation suspect that we would share facilities and ministry for another eight years. We give thanks for the relationship that developed between us, and wish EWC and its pastor every blessing as they transition back to their original worship space. Though we sometimes supposed ourselves to be the benefactors, we discovered that we were often the ones on the receiving end, recipients of the triune love of God in the unexpected neighbors God had given us to love.

Submitted by Pastor Fred



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

The Board of Deacons is grateful to all of our church members who have helped to keep our pantry shelves stocked. There is an on-going need for toilet paper, paper towels, cereal, canned fruit, pasta and sauces.

Cash donations can also be used by the Deacons to fill in items that need to be purchased.

PRAYER CORNER
JULY AUGUST 2019

MY CREED

I would be true, for there are those that 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 of 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.
~Howard Arnold Walter

May your days be many and your troubles be few.
May all God's blessings descend upon you.
May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.
May you find what you're seeking where ever you roam.
~ Irish Blessing

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Pro 17:17

THE HOUSE I LIVE IN

(What Is America To Me)
~Albert Maltz

What is America to me
A name, a map, or a flag I see
A certain word, democracy
What is America to me
The house I live in
A plot of Earth, a street
The grocer and the butcher
And the people that I meet
The children in the playground
The faces that I see
All races and religions
That's America to me
The place I work in

The worker by my side
The little town the city
Where my people lived and died
The howdy and the handshake
The air a feeling free
And the right to speak your mind out
That's America to me
The things I see about me
The big things and the small
The little corner newsstand
Or the house a mile tall
The wedding and the churchyard
The laughter and the tears
The dream that's been a growing
For a hundred and fifty years
The town I live in
The street, the house, the room
The pavement of the city
Or the garden all in bloom
The church the school the clubhouse
The million lights I see
But especially the people
That's America to me



Steeple Chimes Deadline
is the third Monday of each month.
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.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES 2019

9:30 am Sanctuary or Parlor	10:00 am Sanctuary or Parlor	11:00 am Narthex
	June 30 – Worship	
Serenade: Let Freedom Ring	July 7- Communion	Refreshments
	July 14 - Worship	Karaoke
	July 21 - Worship	Bible Bingo
	July 28 – Worship	Karaoke
Serenade: The Sound of Music	August 4 – Communion	Refreshments
	August 11 – Worship	Karaoke
	August 18 – Worship	Bible Bingo
	August 25 – Worship	Bible Bingo
Serenade: Hymn Favorites	September 1 – Communion	Refreshments

Grow With Us

First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn will incorporate some elements of God’s creation in nature into our worship services throughout the summer of 2019. Summer worship will take place from June 30 to September 1 from 10-11 am in the Sanctuary. If heat temperature warnings are expected, we will relocate to the air conditioned and newly renovated Parlor.

All are encouraged to sit in the “Garden of Growth” section in the Sanctuary rather than spreading out into the expansive pew areas. The front left quadrant on the piano side will be dedicated to this theme.

Experience the new look of our Parlor and hear our Baldwin piano.

Come early at 9:30 am on Communion Sundays to participate in an interactive serenade concert experience with our Director of Music and stay after for refreshments.

Stay after service for Faith, Family, and Fun Christian Karaoke in the Narthex with Team “Larryoke” or to build your bible trivia skills with Bible Bingo.

Lineup your summer Sundays and join us for growth in God’s creation.

First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn



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facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Greenlawn

Summer Sunday Worship 10:00 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
Debbie Eitel, Fellowship Director
Leonora Colletti, Director of Music
Margaret Negrelli, Clerk of Session
Jim Dean, Treasurer
Betty Chatfield, Financial Secretary
Nancy MacIntyre, Benevolence Treasurer

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?"