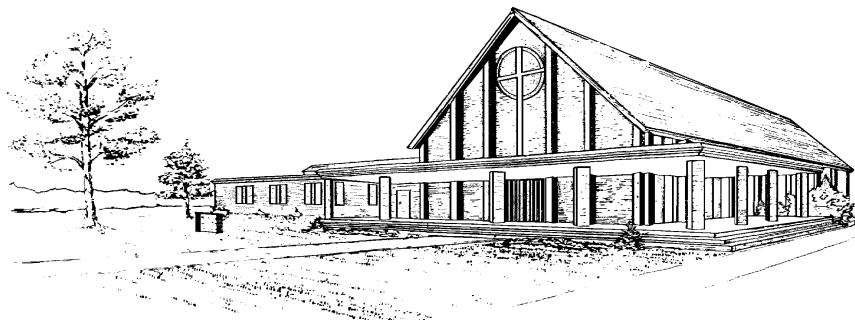


# STEEPLE CHIMES

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn

ISSUE: Two Hundred Fifteen

OCTOBER 2018



## Message From the Pastor

In physics, escape velocity is the minimum speed needed for an object to escape the gravitational influence of a body. To leave the earth's atmosphere, for example, a spacecraft must reach around 7 miles per second, some 25,000 miles per hour.

As I was reading Mark's Gospel, I found myself wondering what escape velocity is necessary for the human being to escape the gravitational pull of ego. According to Mark, none of the disciples reached escape velocity during Jesus' lifetime; they barely got off the ground. How else are we to explain that when Jesus turned his face toward Jerusalem his disciples began to argue which of them was the greatest? How else do we explain Peter's habit of constantly redirecting the spot light on Jesus back toward himself?

It is no different with us. Among the necessary disillusionments of Christian faith is the discovery of just how much false self there is left over even after one becomes a follower of Jesus Christ. Even after we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior we continue to defend ourselves against God's love. Even seeking to become good and faithful Christians, we will continue to regard ourselves as outside of and apart from God rather than as in God and God in us. Even after profound experiences of God's grace in Jesus Christ we will continue to have expectations of what Jesus should do *for* us, and of what life should be like *for* us since we have faith in him. Even and especially after conversion we discover that we were not worshiping God, but an image or idol of what we thought God should be like.

When Jesus spoke about our need to lose ourselves in order to find ourselves (Mark 8:35), our need to die to self, he was not speaking of our bodies, but of our false selves. It is our false selves that pretend to exist outside of the reach of God's will and love which must die so that our True selves, our identity in God, might truly and freely live. Our True selves are our received selves, not the stuff of human invention. Our deepest freedom rests in our becoming what God wills us to be. But this does not come about through our own thrust, but by our consenting to the grace already at work in us as we make Jesus' prayer\* our own prayer even as, through our praying of it, Jesus make us ever more his own.

A man of piety complained to the Baal Shem Tov, the Jewish mystical rabbi credited with founding of Hasidic Judaism, that he had labored long and hard in service to the Lord but nothing had seemed to come of it. He realized that after all his efforts he was still an ordinary and ignorant man. The Baal Shem Tov is said to have responded, "You have gained the realization that you are ordinary and ignorant, and this is itself a worthy accomplishment."

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Fall reminds us that we were never meant to achieve escape velocity. Like autumn leaves, we are meant to fall back down to earth. And fall we do, again and again and again. And there is beauty in that. There is beauty in being simply human, made in the image of God, invited to a fuller and more conscious participation in the life of God made known in Jesus Christ, invited, in other words, not so much to achieve or accomplish, but to awaken.

See you in church,  
Pastor Fred

\* "Father, . . . not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

## Celebrations of Unity and Diversity

In October, we celebrate what unites us with other Christians and what sets us apart. On *World Communion Sunday* (October 7, 2018), we will recall Jesus' prayer that all his children may be one, as He and the Father are one (John 17:11). We will acknowledge that the proliferation of ecclesiastical divisions is an affront to the One who reconciled the world in Jesus Christ, that our Christian faith is compromised by the very fact that there are so many denominations! And yet on *Reformation Sunday* (October 28, 2018), we will celebrate the distinctive contributions and perspectives of the Reformers to the life of the universal Church.

How is that we do both? Perhaps an analogy from interpersonal relationships might help. Real relationship with others requires that each of us have a defined self with marked-out boundaries. If there is no distinction between self and others, or if the boundaries of self and others become completely permeable, there is only the illusion of relationship. For real relationship is more than fusion or mush.

On this analogy, our awareness and appreciation of what distinguishes the Reformed Tradition from other faith traditions may actually help to make significant ecumenical relationships with others possible. Awareness of the distinctive contributions of the Reformed faith may actually help to keep our dialogue with one another "real" and move us beyond namby-pamby tolerance to biblical hospitality.

But in celebrating what makes us distinctive as Presbyterians we need also to take great care not to magnify our distinctions. As someone once said, *Presbyterian* is a great adjective, but an idolatrous noun: we are in the first instance Christians, not Presbyterians.\* And yet our Presbyterian tradition helps us to define the way we think about and live out our discipleship as Christians as God's mission people.

This October we will celebrate our God-given unity on World Communion Sunday, and we will celebrate our God-given diversity on Reformation Sunday. These two celebrations need not in the end contradict each other; they may stand in helpful and purposeful tension. The unity of ecumenism, in other words, need not be forced by obliterating our differences or sacrificing our provisional identity.

Submitted by Pastor Fred

\* George MacLeod, the Scottish Presbyterian minister who founded the ecumenical religious community on Iona famously ambushed people with the question, "Are you a Presbyterian or a Christian?"



Reformation Day

# DEACON'S



## Fall Festival

### AND YARD SALE

**Saturday October 6, 2018**

**9 AM – 4 PM**

- ~ **Some Assorted Craft Vendors & Merchants**
- ~ **Fresh cooked Hot Dogs with all the fixings & beverages**
- ~ **Delicious Slices of Fresh Seasonal Pies!**

~ Come out and bring your family, friends & the kids for a day of fun in the sun!

~ Christmas items, Church Ladies Closet, Ticket Auction and Lollipop Lottery, & much more, something for everyone!

Clean, gently used household items, clothing, and shoes can be left in the front lobby. No books, please!

All proceeds to benefit the Food Pantry & Deacon Outreach ministries.

# Welcome to Greenlawn

*Leonora Colletti, organist*



I began piano studies at age seven with my mother, who had a serious love for hymns. The years passed and I advanced to more challenging music. I recall one Saturday in particular when my mom opened our Episcopal Hymnal to Hymn 1 for Advent and asked me to sight read, then turned the pages to Hymns 2,3. . . etc. with the obvious intention that all 600 hymns be learned. My love for music led me to become a public school music teacher where I taught primarily classroom music and chorus spanning grades K-12. Now retired, I can devote my time to worship God through music as organist. I served as organist/choir director at Islip Presbyterian Church for the past eleven years. It is my honor and privilege to serve our Lord and this congregation here at Greenlawn Presbyterian Church. Through the Holy Spirit, I hope to bring a blessing to all. “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.” *Psalm 103:1*

## October Youth Happenings

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

Sunday Oct 7- World Communion Sunday 10:30AM

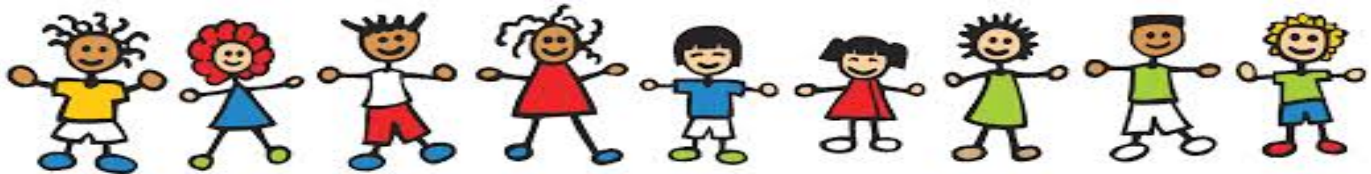
We will be celebrating this worship service together with;

The Ebenezer Wesleyan church, The Fraternidad de Cristiana church  
& The Iglesia Cristiana Unida Church

ALL of our brothers and sisters in Christ! Celebrating UNITY!

Friday Oct 12 Hope for the Future

Go to Farmingdale to make sandwiches for their Community Outreach Program  
Meet at 6 PM in the church parking lot OR at the warehouse in Farmingdale.



September 16, 2018

IN RECOGNITION OF MANY FINE YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO GREENLAWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AND IT'S PEOPLE

BARBARA SMALL

**Barbara Small:** There is nothing 'small' about Barbara Small. For years she has demonstrated that she can 'Do It All' and in a 'big' way. Whether it's planting flowers, watering anything growing during the long, hot summers, trimming shrubs, washing windows, serving a crowd (communion), helping maintain Deacon Food Pantry and what would our annual Soup Suppers be without Barbara's smiling face.

One of her guiding principles is one we all know: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. We know she is a frequent babysitter helping out her family but she's also a Deacon who is always ready and able to deliver that smile when needed to any one of her church family members in need...frequently accompanied by her Scotch Shortbread cookies ...yum, yum. Have car will travel seems to be one of her mottos.

**WE ALL LOVE YOU!**

Thank you and God bless you.

# **PRAYER CORNER**

## **OCTOBER 2018**

### **AT DAY'S END**

~John Hall

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?  
The day is almost over and its toiling is through;  
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word to you?  
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?  
Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,  
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?  
Did you waste the day, or lose it?  
Was it well or sorely spent?  
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?  
Does the man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?  
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,  
you have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

### **DREAMS AND DEEDS**

~John Hunter

Dear Master, in whose life I see all that I long and fail to be;  
Let thy clear light forever shine, to shame and guide this life of mine.  
Though what I dream and what I do in my poor days are always two,  
Help me, oppressed by things undone, O thou, whose dreams and deeds were one.

*"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."*

~Albert Einstein



When reaching out to our new Receiver of Taxes for the Town of Huntington, Jillian Guthman, to ask permission to reprint this timely article she has written (see below) she offered to write a few words to go along with this article for our monthly newsletter.

~*Your Finance Committee*

### **13 TIPS FOR PARENTS TO HELP TEACH CHILDREN HEALTHY MONEY MANAGEMENT**

1. **USE CASH** ~ Credit is more convenient but using credit doesn't allow children to see the actual exchange of money.
2. **BANK/ATM VISITS** ~ Great way to explain where money comes from. Some local banks may even give a tour.
3. **GROCERY SHOPPING** ~ Demonstrate comparison shopping and basic money management habits. Show how the use of coupons can translate into savings.
4. **BRAND NAME DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN BETTER** ~ Generic products can help save money. You can show the money saved on a generic product and then allow the child to choose an additional item with the savings.
5. **WANTS vs. NEEDS** ~ It is important to distinguish between wants and needs. You need food to survive, but would like a new game.
6. **BUILD A BUDGET** ~ Create a monthly budget. Although children do not have many expenses, it is good practice to see where your money goes.
7. **UTILITY BILLS** ~ Explain that we have to pay for services such as electric, water, gas... and talk about money-saving habits such as turning off the lights when you leave the room.
8. **CREATE A WISH LIST** ~ Once a budget has been built, and your children can see how much money is left over, they can create a wish list of things they want to save for. They can map out short and long term items.
9. **CLEAR JAR SYSTEM** ~ Save money in a clear glass jar so you can see it grow.
10. **SHARING** ~ Learning to give away some of your money is an important lesson, too. Designate a separate jar for sharing. Once filled, allow them to donate the money to a charity of their choice or a friend in need.
11. **OPEN A SMALL BUSINESS** ~ This can instill a solid work ethic as well as teach good money management skills.
12. **ALLOWANCE** ~ An allowance in exchange for chores allows them to earn a small income to begin managing their money.
13. **GAMES** ~ Games like Monopoly or Life are great ways to teach budgeting, spending, and financial decision making skills.

*This time of year, we gear up to ready our children for the school year. One lesson that we can work on every day is having a healthy relationship with money. As adults we have learned to understand the value of prudent money management. Children of this generation however, live in a time where there is tremendous focus on material possessions and immediate gratification. We see, we want, we get. When we are tired of something, we replace it with the new best concept. An approach to handling money that focuses on planned utilization of resources, saving, meeting all of our needs and some wants and helping others is a learned awareness.*

*There are many easy steps that we can incorporate into our daily routine that can positively influence our children's relationship with money: We can **create a monthly budget**. Although children do not have many expenses, it is a good practice to know where your money goes. We can use a clear jar to **save money**. The positive reinforcement of seeing it grow will spur on a savings propensity. **Use money** for our day to day transactions. These days we swipe for convenience. If you elect to rely on credit cards discuss the perks and the cost of rolling balances. Our daily chores such as a trip to the grocery store can provide opportunity for **comparison shopping** and the development of healthy money habits.*

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**Make a list** of items to purchase and **utilize coupons** and discuss the savings. Purchasing **generic items** can be seen as a cost saving measure where the essential qualities of the item are provided but the packaging is simpler. You can give the saved money to the child to purchase a want. Conversations of **wants verses needs** are always useful. It is also important to learn to **give away some of your money**. Allow children to pick a charity of interest to make a contribution. Earning **an allowance** for chores is also a great technique to instill how to earn money and is a great tool to learn how to save for something special. A step beyond chores is **opening a small business**, such as a lemonade stand, which can reinforce a strong work ethic and money management. Staffing, advertisement, gathering materials needed, ...are all part of the process. Ultimately, our philosophy about money comes from our observations and experiences over many years. It's said that children are sponges, why not use the early years to form attitudes that will benefit them for a lifetime. For more information on money management, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Jillian Guthman, the Receiver of Taxes for Huntington, [jguthman@HuntingtonNY.gov](mailto:jguthman@HuntingtonNY.gov) or 631-351-3372





## *First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn*



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

### ***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, Youth Director**  
**Leonora Colletti, Organist**  
**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?"*