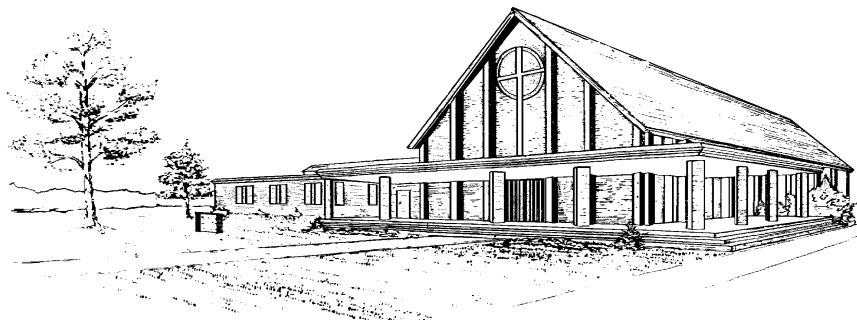


STEEPLE CHIMES

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn

ISSUE: Two Hundred Fourteen

SEPTEMBER 2018



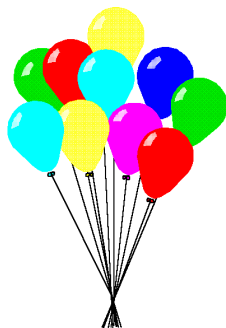
Message From the Pastor

As summer comes to an end, we look ahead to Rally Day (September 9th), which we traditionally celebrate with balloons, special worship and an afternoon picnic. Rally Day, a great Sunday to invite our friends to church, is also the first Sunday that we return to our 10:30 a.m. worship time.

Rally Day was early recognized in American Protestantism as a time to rally Christian youth beneath the banner of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today it remains an occasion for our young and old alike to open our hearts still further to the Spirit of God operating in and through our lives. Rally Day offers the opportunity to take stock of obstacles to our own spiritual development, those attitudes and fears that block the operation of the grace of God in us and eclipse our awareness of the ways the Holy Spirit is already at work in the world, bringing life out of death.

May this Rally Day be a time for all of us to hear and heed Christ's call, a time to deepen our trust that Christ really has called the church into being and really is faithful to his promise never to abandon it. Let us live into our calling as disciples, companions (literally, people who eat bread together) along this journey of faith. May our faith be as buoyant as helium balloons and may our feet be planted firmly on the ground.

See you in church,
Pastor Fred



News from Rev. Jim Black: *Things I Wish I Had Learned in Seminary*

Former Interim Pastor and friend of the congregation, Rev. Jim Black, has written a book that has recently gone to publication: [What I Wish I Had Learned in Seminary](#).

Writing for pastors and priests, rabbis and imams, Jim seeks “to equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Eph. 4:12). Jim reflects on needful changes in seminary training, and also on the need for more quality, honesty and substance in faith communities so that their leaders can meet and speak to today’s world with greater confidence and integrity.

In the words of Dr. Christian Richardson, Head Librarian at Union Presbyterian Seminary, “This book needs to be in the hands of every student, in every minister’s library...” Dr. David Nash, past president of the nation-wide Academy of Parish Clergy, commented, “...(O)h, the pain and problems I could have avoided in my ministry if I had had this book before I went into ministry.”

Submitted by Pastor Fred



Haunting Questions

Why do we park in the driveway and drive on the parkway?

Why is it that we sometimes say that we 'slept like a baby' when we know that babies wake up every two hours?

Why didn't we notice that the *Alphabet Song* and *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* had the same tune?

Why do we pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do our dogs get mad when we blow in their faces, but then stick their heads out the window when we take them for a ride in the car?

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are dying?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when someone throws a revolver at him?

Why do we constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do we keep running over a thread a dozen times with our vacuum cleaners, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on our first try?

Why is it that whenever we attempt to catch something that's falling off the table we always manage to knock something else over?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How important do people have to be before they are considered “assassinated” instead of just “murdered”?

How come we have to sing the *Alphabet Song* to convince ourselves that it has the same tune as *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*?

Submitted by Pastor Fred



+ RALLY DAY



**HELP US KICK OFF A NEW YEAR!!
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH**

**10:30 AM WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
BALLOONS, SONGS, AND FELLOWSHIP
3:00 PM ALL CHURCH PICNIC
RAIN OR SHINE**

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, AND DRINKS PROVIDED

LAST NAME A to M: PLEASE BRING A DESSERT

LAST NAME N to Z : PLEASE BRING A LARGE SALAD TO

SHARE

**WELCOME BACK TO A YEAR OF FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH
AS WE CONTINUE ON OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY**

Changing of the Bulbs

High-efficiency LED light bulbs were recently installed in the sanctuary. Many thanks to the members of our nesting church, Fraternidad Cristiana, for their dare-devil, high-flying ladder climbing to replace the bulbs!

On August 14, members from the Fraternida Cristiana Church (FCC) starting replacing the light bulbs in the sanctuary ceiling lights. FCC is an Spanish speaking church which worships in our sanctuary Saturday nights. With their help and our ladder, we were able to save \$2,000. The new bulbs are the LED type and are good for 25 years and use 1/10 of the power that a regular bulbs uses. With only half of the bulbs replaced there is a very noticeable improvement in the amount of light. The Building and Grounds committee hopes to have all the light bulbs replaced by Rally Day.

~submitted by Bob Arelt

September Youth Happenings

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

Back to School time!

Sunday Sept 9th - RALLY DAY! & Church Picnic!

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018**

**9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**DEACON'S ANNUAL**

**FALL FESTIVAL**

### **The Knots Prayer**

Dear God, please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the *have nots*, the *can nots*, the *do nots* that I have in my mind. Erase the *will nots*, *may nots*, and *might nots* that find a home in my heart. Release me from the *could nots*, *would nots*, and *should nots* that obstruct my life. And most of all, dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind and heart and my life all of the *am nots* that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I *am not* good enough.

Submitted by Pastor Fred

# **PRAYER CORNER**

## **SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **GOD**

~Unknown

I asked for strength and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.  
I asked for wisdom and God gave me problems to solve.  
I asked for prosperity and God gave me brawn and brains to work.  
I asked for courage and God gave me dangers to overcome.  
I asked for patience and God placed me in situations where I was forced to wait.  
I asked for love and God gave me troubled people to help.  
I asked for favors and God gave me opportunities.  
I asked for everything so I could enjoy life.  
Instead, He gave me life so I could enjoy everything.  
I received nothing I wanted, I received everything I needed.

*Dear Children, let us not love with words or tongue  
but with actions and in truth. 1John 3:18*

### **A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER'S PRAYER**

(Anon - alleged to have been found on a casualty at Gettysburg)

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.  
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to 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 got everything I had hoped for.  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am, among all people, most richly blessed.

What life means to us is determined not so much by what life brings to us as by the attitude we bring to life; not so much by what happens to us as by our reaction to what happens. ~Lewis L. Dunnington

## VOLUNTEERS, GOD BLESS THEM

~Unknown

Many will be shocked to find  
When the day of judgment nears;  
That there's a special place in heaven  
Set aside for volunteers.  
Furnished with big recliners,  
Satin couches and footstools,  
Where there's no committee chairmen,  
No group leaders or car pools.  
No eager team that needs a coach,  
No bazaar and no bake sale,  
There will be nothing to staple,  
Not one thing to fold or mail.  
Telephone lists will be outlawed,  
But a finger snap will bring  
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners  
And treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few  
And work for all they're worth?"  
Why, all those who reaped the benefits  
And not once volunteered on Earth!

Submitted by your Finance Committee

## I WILL DO MORE

~Anonymous

I will do more than belong; I will PARTICIPATE  
I will do more than care; I will HELP  
I will do more than believe; I will PRACTICE  
I will do more than be fair; I will be KIND  
I will do more than dream; I will WORK  
I will do more than teach; I will INSPIRE  
I will do more than earn; I will ENRICH  
I will do more than; give; I will SERVE  
I will do more than live; I will GROW  
I will do more than be friendly; I'll be a FRIEND



## **CONGRATULATIONS KATHIE!**

The Donate Life Transplant Games is a multi-sport festival event produced by the Transplant Life Foundation for individuals who have undergone life-saving transplant surgeries. This year the games were held in Salt Lake City, Utah in early August.

Our own Kathie Gerlach was the proud recipient of four medals, three of which were for swimming events!



## *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**  
**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?"*