



# *The Steeple Chimes*

The E-Newsletter of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn  
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Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Pastor

*February, 2021*

## *Pastor's Message*

My Beloved Church Family,

One afternoon recently, my husband was sitting in the family room, poring over some papers. I was at the kitchen sink. Bob came into the kitchen and asked, "Did I hear you talking in here a few minutes ago?" "Yes," I answered. "I was talking to a fly who was banging his head against the window."

Bob didn't say anything, but I'm sure he was wondering if there were any psychiatrists around who could take a new patient on very short notice.

The issue with the fly had started the previous week, when a big black fly started flying around our kitchen. Under normal circumstances I would have killed the insect, but to tell you the truth, I admired his tenacity in being able to survive into the middle of January. So, I decided that he and I would coexist peacefully. I even gave him a name: Charles Lindbergh, but ended up calling him "Charlie the Fly."

I observed Charlie the Fly as he slept, and watched as he flew around the house for pure enjoyment. He somehow knew I didn't want him on the kitchen counter; instead, he feasted out of the kitchen trash pail. On this one sunny afternoon, though, he started crashing repeatedly against the kitchen window, anxious to get out. "You can't go out, Charlie," I said. "You'll freeze to death. You don't know how cold it is out there. You'll never survive." And it was at that point that my husband came into the kitchen.

I'll bet that God's encounter with humanity is not too dissimilar to my encounter with Charlie the Fly. God provides for us and knows what is best for us. Sometimes, when we start to do things that are only going to lead to sin, or even death, God tries to warn us, but we are simply unwilling or unable to hear. We bang our heads in frustration, longing for things we shouldn't have and don't need. We ignore God's will for us, and then find ourselves in situations where we have no business being. We call out to God for help, not realizing that God's help was there from the beginning, if only we had known where to look.

We are about to enter the holy season of Lent, a time to take a good look at ourselves and our relationship with God. Rather than frustrating ourselves by trying to live life on our own terms, let's use this time to become more aware of God's presence, to listen more for God's voice, and to discern just what it is that God wants us to do with our time here on Earth.



Our Lenten Services will be on line this year, every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m., starting on February 17, and going through March 24, for a total of six Wednesdays. Log-in information may be found below.

And what about Charlie the Fly, you may ask? Well, I haven't seen him in a few days. I hope he found a nice place to hibernate; I've kind of grown attached to the little fellow.

Stay safe and healthy!

With love and blessings,

*Pastor Ann*

### **Zoom Worship**

#### **How are we going to worship on Sundays?**

We will "simulcast" our Sunday worship on Zoom for those who cannot be in the Sanctuary. You may log on as early as 10:00 a.m. for coffee and conversation. Worship begins promptly at 10:30. The easiest way to do Zoom is to download the Zoom App from the App Store. Zoom will work on a computer, a laptop, an I-Pad, or a Smartphone.

#### **What are the Meeting IDs for Sunday Worship?**

Now through February 21 inclusive, the Meeting ID is: 958 7038 5676. The Passcode is: 184195

From February 28 through April 11 inclusive, the Meeting ID is: 982 6280 7320. The Passcode is: 205170

#### **What are the Meeting IDs for Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Services?**

For the Wednesday Lenten Services from February 17 through March 24 inclusive, the Meeting ID is: 986 8617 9862. The Passcode is: 975734

#### **Will I get a reminder about logging on to these services?**

If you are on the church e-mail list, you will get a weekly e-mail with the Zoom link.

#### **I don't have a computer or a Smartphone. What can I do?**

You may telephone the following number:

1-646-558-8656

You will be asked for a meeting ID and passcode. (Please see paragraphs 2 and 3.)

You won't be able to see us, but you can still hear what's going on.



### **Birthday Blessings!**

February 5 – Jayne Ramirez  
February 8 – Caroline Prentiss  
February 9 – Janice Hago  
February 13 – Kathy Fitzgerald  
February 14 – William Chatfield  
February 15 – Bob Van Cleef  
February 19 – Ginny Soergel





# Prayer Corner

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul  
and with all your mind  
and with all your strength.*

*The second is this:*

*'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

*There is no commandment greater than these.*

~Mark 12:30-31 NIV

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue  
but with actions and in truth.*

~1 John 3:18

Lord help us to choose the right path  
in these uncertain times.

And help us, we pray,  
to learn how to face every storm with confidence  
knowing we are never alone.

You are with us always.

~Anon

*Do everything in love.*

~1 Corinthians 16:14

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient,  
bearing with one another in love.*

~Ephesians 4:2

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and  
that you may be in good health,  
as it goes well with your soul."

~3 John 1:2

## AS WE GATHER ROUND OUR FAMILY TABLE

Lord, thank you for the food before us,  
the family and friends beside us,  
and the love between us.

### **IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT'S DAY: WHAT PRESIDENTS HAVE SAID ABOUT GOD AND THE BIBLE**

"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without  
God and the Bible."

~George Washington (178-1797)

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to  
political prosperity,  
religion and morality are indispensable."

~ George Washington (178-1797)

"I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible.

Take all of this Book

upon reason that you can, and the balance by faith,  
and you will live and die a better man."

~Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)

#### ***"This nation under God"***

~ Abraham Lincoln,

Gettysburg Address

Inscribed on Lincoln Memorial

~and~

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love  
will have the final word in reality.

This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger  
than evil triumphant."

~Martin Luther King Jr.

Submitted by Betty Chatfield

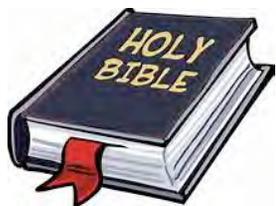




### Winter Worship at FPC Greenlawn

On January 3, we celebrated The Epiphany with The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The sermon was titled "The Truth about the Wise Men."

We observed the Baptism of Jesus on January 10. The sermon was titled "Now What?" which is a question all of us ask ourselves after an important event.



On January 17, the sermon was called "Like a Bouquet of Flowers." We compared our various gifts and talents to a colorful bouquet, where the flowers complement one another.

January 24, with "After John Was Arrested," we realized that Jesus' ministry could not and would not begin until after John's arrest.

For several weeks, we had been reading 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel without unpacking it in any of the sermons. Therefore, on January 31, we drew our attention to Samuel's call from God, with "Calls – Unexpected and Unwanted."

### Upcoming Worship Themes

February 7 we will share the joy of Simeon and Anna as the Lord Jesus is presented in the Temple.

On February 14, we will celebrate Love. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

On February 21, we will journey into the Old Testament and explore the Covenant of Abraham.

February 28, we will witness the Transfiguration of Jesus as told in Mark 9.



### We Bid Adieu to Linda Siegmann

At the end of January, we said goodbye to Linda Siegmann, our Administrative Assistant, and thanked her for the work she has done these past six years.

Linda is a lovely person, and she always put people who telephoned and visited the church office at ease. She has a lot of knowledge about the inner workings of



the church, and was very good about reminding the Pastor and Church Officers about important things coming up. She typed bulletins and newsletters. She also managed the office calendar and dealt with our nesting congregations. Even when the church was closed for six months, Linda would check the telephone answering machine and the church e-mails, and would pass along important messages. She assisted with stewardship campaigns, flower dedications, and kept the church office running efficiently. And that's just the tip of the iceberg!

Linda is retiring, selling her home in East Northport, and moving to New Jersey to be closer to her son. We pray God's blessings on her as she starts this new phase of her life.

### Join Us on February 14 for Songs and a Movie!

On Sunday, February 14, the Vision Team will sponsor a *Love Songs and Movie* event in the Sanctuary immediately following worship. The movie is called *War Room: The Power of Prayer*. The love songs? They are up to you!

The singing starts immediately after worship, and the movie will start at noon. Admission is free; masks and snacks will be for sale. Please reserve your seat by signing up at the greeting table in the lobby, or by calling the church at (631) 261-2150.



**Masks by Leonora – Half Price and BOGO Sale!**

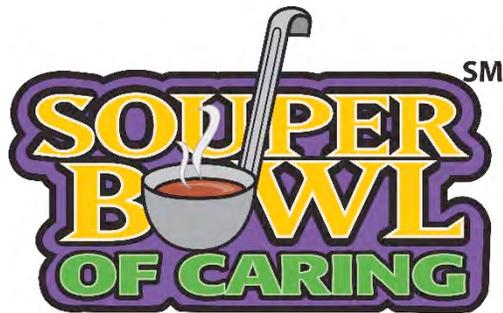
Leonora Colletti is making room for her spring line, and is having a big sale on selected masks: Half price *and* buy one get one. In other words, 4 for \$10. It doesn't get any better than this! Stock up on masks today. Remember, they make great gifts!



**Celebrate “Souper Bowl Sunday” with Us!**

The Vision Team invites you to come and celebrate the Super Bowl with us! Except we're spelling it “Souper” Bowl.

Every week between now and Super / Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7, we are collecting canned soup for our Little Food Pantry.



We are doing this project in partnership with *The*

*Souper Bowl of Caring*, a nation-wide movement that unites communities to tackle hunger. This organization inspires people to alleviate hunger on a local level. All of the soup that is collected is given to a charity of the participant's choice; in our case, to our Little Food Pantry.

Started in 1990 at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, the Souper Bowl of Caring has branched out to include schools, businesses, and congregations of all faiths. In the 30 years of its existence, over \$163 million in food and donations has been raised for local food pantries. In 2020 alone, thousands of groups collected over \$10.6 million in food and contributions.



**Calling All Deacons!**

Have you served as a Deacon in this or any other Presbyterian Church? We would love to know who you are. Please see Pastor Ann after church.

**Altar Flowers**

On January 10, flowers were placed on the Communion Table by Barbara Lambert in loving memory of her mother, Myra Kern.



If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, you may make arrangements through the church office by calling (631) 261-2150.

**On February 14, We'll Celebrate Love!**

The theme of our service on February 14 will be “Love!” Not just romantic love, but the love we have for family, for friends, and for one another.

On February 14, please bring in a photograph of a loved one: a wedding photo, a baby photo, a graduation photo - whatever you like. (It's okay to bring in more than one.)



We will invite you to place these photos on the Communion Table as you enter the church. It will be helpful if the photos are in a frame and can stand on their own. These photographs will remind us of God's love for us as we celebrate our love for God and for one another on Valentine's Day.

**Report of the Congregational Meeting  
January 17, 2021**

Our current *Church Operations Manual* allows for changes to be made to our Bylaws with only Session approval. The congregation voted to change that so that changes to our Bylaws must be approved at a congregational meeting.

Citations in the Bylaws were updated to reflect the *Book of Order 2019 – 2021*.

The congregation approved holding congregational meetings via Zoom in case of inclement weather or pandemic situations.

The congregation also approved changing to a unicameral system of church governance (in other words, one Board – the Session) on a trial basis for one year.

### **Ordination and Installation of Elders**

On January 31, we ordained and installed new Elders to serve on Session. Because of the pandemic, we were unable to do the traditional Laying-on of Hands. Instead, the new Elders held onto one end of a long ribbon, with members of the congregation holding onto the other end. (Please see photos below.)

Congratulations to our new Elders: Arlissa Dean, Kathie Gerlach, Gary Prentiss, and George Santos. Congratulations also to returning Elder Diane Kirchhoff.



*Our Laying-on of Hands was accomplished with several ribbons tied together in a knot, and held down with a heavy vase.*



*We are all connected! One person said she felt a lot of energy running through those ribbons.*

### **Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, January 24. During the meeting, we accepted the Annual Report, reviewed the budget for 2021, and elected officers.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office for those who were unable to attend the meeting.

### **February 14 is National Donor Day**

Valentine's Day has a new meaning when you need an organ transplant to survive. 120,000 Americans, who are currently waiting for precious organ transplants, depend on people to sign up with their state's organ donor registries on National Donor Day every February 14. It's a more concrete way to show love than giving heart-shaped candy, roses, or red velvet teddy bears. By donating organs such as corneas, tissue, marrow, platelets, and blood, you create a living legacy of your generosity with the ultimate gift of love.



In New York State, you may log onto the New York State Donate Life Registry for information on becoming an organ or tissue donor. You may also sign up when you renew your driver's license.

Of February 14, Kathie Gerlach will give a short "Minute for Mission" on this topic during our Celebration of Worship.

### **Ash Wednesday Communion Service And Lenten Services**

Sadly, due to the pandemic, we will not be able to have our traditional soup suppers this year. Our Ash Wednesday Communion Service and Wednesday Lenten Services will take place on line at 7:30 p.m. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for log-on information.



## From the Pastor's Kitchen:

### Turkey Meatloaf

I searched far and wide for a meatloaf recipe that was made from ground turkey but would still taste good. I finally found one. It doesn't fill my requirement of having 4 or fewer ingredients, but Bob likes it, so I cook it for him at least once a month. The secret's in the sauce – Worcestershire in this case.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground chicken or turkey
- ½ cup breadcrumbs
- 1 egg white
- 1 carrot, very finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon onion flakes
- ¼ cup ketchup
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ teaspoon celery seeds (I use celery salt)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Dash of pepper

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking dish with foil to make cleanup easier. Mix ground meat and breadcrumbs. Add the rest of the ingredients. Shape into a loaf. Bake, covered with foil, for 1 hour. Uncover and bake an additional 30 minutes.



### Our Session

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2021  
Betty Chatfield  
Debbie Eitel  
Ruth Satterlee

Class of 2022  
Diane Kirchhoff  
Gary Prentiss  
George Santos

Class of 2023  
Arlissa Dean  
Kathleen Gerlach



Our cats are beginning to think that we, too, are cats. We're always home. We lie around most of the time. We eat. We sleep. Maybe they're onto something!

\*\*\*

Wearing a mask inside your home is highly recommended. Not so much to prevent COVID-19, but to stop eating.

\*\*\*

Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me every day. He's from India, and is very concerned about my car warranty.

\*\*\*

Don't let them take your temperature going into the store! It's a scam! I went in for bread and eggs, and came home with a Carvel ice cream cake and a bag of Snickers.

\*\*\*

My husband and I were sitting on our couch watching TV last night. Then I hear that I got a text on my phone that I had left in the kitchen. I go to the kitchen to check it, and it's a text from my husband: "Please bring some chips on your way back."

\*\*\*

The more you weigh, the harder you are to kidnap. So, stay safe! Eat cake!

\*\*\*

I still like to make handwritten lists. I also like to leave them on the kitchen counter and then guess what's on the list while I'm at the store.

\*\*\*

Sometimes I like to mess with my family and hide their stuff where they can't find it. Like I put their shoes in the shoe closet, their jackets on a coat hanger, and their keys on the key hook.

### A Reminder about our Food Pantry

This is just a reminder that our Little Food Pantry is stocked and open 24/7. No one in our area should have to go hungry. Please spread the word.