



# *The Steeple Chimes*

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

*July - August, 2020*

## *Pastor's Message*

My Beloved Congregants,

Here we are. It's July. We thought this COVID-19 pandemic was going to be over by now. We followed the rules. We stayed home. When we absolutely had to go out, we wore masks. We washed our hands like crazy. And, right now, our kitchens and bathrooms are so sanitized, one could perform open heart surgery in them!

Unfortunately, not everyone in the country took COVID-19 as seriously as we in the Northeast did. As a result, the pandemic is not over. In fact, it's getting worse.

That leaves us in the awful position of not knowing what the future holds. When will we be able to visit friends and relatives? Will school start in the fall for our children and grandchildren? When will we be able to worship together again as a congregation? Will we have to think of new ways to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas? When can we travel again?

Right now, there are no answers to any of these questions.

For the past two months, your church officers and I have been studying the New York Forward plan to re-open, and we have designed a Safety Plan for our church that complies with the template that was given to us by New York State. The highlights of the Safety Plan can be found elsewhere in this issue. This plan, by the way, applies to us as well as those who rent our building.

During my ministry of almost 20 years, I have participated in some rather unusual projects. Each time, I've declared, "I must have been absent the day they taught this in seminary." I must say, though, this one "takes the cake." Closing down a church building, keeping a congregation viable during a pandemic, and then figuring out how to open the building again – they definitely forgot to teach *that* one in seminary! And, I don't think it was covered in church officers' training, either!

Nonetheless, we should not be discouraged. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

My prayer for all of us is that we get through this – with the help of God.

With love and blessings,

*Pastor Ann*



**Zoom Worship**  
***By Pastor Ann***

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

We will be continuing our Sunday worship using a video conferencing system called Zoom. You may log on as early as 10:00 a.m. for coffee and conversation. Worship begins promptly at 10:30, followed by a virtual coffee hour until noon. 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?**

From now through August 16, the Meeting ID is 984 5175 3501. The passcode is 035680.

If we still need to meet via Zoom, from August 23 through October 4, the meeting ID is 984 2634 4685. The passcode is 710462

**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 paragraph 2)

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



## Birthday Blessings!

July 6 – Barbara Small

July 9 – Rev. Fred Woodward

July 12 – John Eric Proctor

July 28 – Tatiana Crosby

August 2 – Matthew Polcer

August 3 – William D'Andrea

August 3 – Lydia Mott

August 3 – Linda Siegmann

August 15 – Karen Boccia

August 17 – Maria Hottinger

August 17 – Sarah Ramirez

August 23 – Briana Rixon

September 2 – Rev. Ann Van Cleef

September 7 – Robert Eitel

September 7 – Mildred Bachman

September 11 – Meg Lawrence

September 11 – George Girouard

September 14 – Benjamin Dean

September 14 – Leonora Colletti

September 20 – Gary Mott

September 20 – Olivia Buatsi



## Zoom Worship at FPC Greenlawn

On June 7, we celebrated Trinity Sunday as we unpacked Paul's last written words to the Church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 13:11-13).

The theme of our Service on June 14 was "Justice, Only Justice Shall You Pursue, based on Deuteronomy 16:18-20.

On Father's Day, June 21, we looked at Luke 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son) from the viewpoint of the father. We also said special prayers for all fathers who are living, and remembered those fathers who have entered Life Eternal.

We held a Baccalaureate Service for Alex Kirchhoff on June 28, asking God's blessings as Alex prepares to attend James Madison University in the fall.

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Summer worship is tentatively as follows:

July 5: Independence Day Sunday. "Liberty and Justice for ALL!"

July 12: "Seedtime and Harvest."

July 19: "Good Seeds and Weeds"

July 26: "The Kingdom of God Is Like ..."

August 2: "How Much Do We Need?"

August 9: "Impossible?"

August 16: "Where Do We Put Our Faith?"

August 23: "Who Do You Say That I Am?"

August 30: "Taking Up the Cross"

September 6: Labor Day Sunday. "Work – A Four Letter Word!"

## **The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**

*7 asleep, 13 blank stares, 22 texting, and 57 silly grins.*



After a cursory glance of the congregation Pastor Pete knew his sermon from Leviticus was deemed underwhelming.

## Congratulations, Alex Kirchhoff



Congratulations to Church member Alex Kirchhoff on his recent graduation from Harborfields High School. On June 28, we held a Baccalaureate Service thanking God for Alex and asking God's blessings on Alex's future. Here are some of his accomplishments:

'Cello player, member of his school orchestras from elementary school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade;

Achieved Mastery Level on Algebra I, Earth Science, Biology, and Global Studies Regents Exams;

Member of JV and Varsity Cross Country Teams, and JV and Varsity Track and Field Teams;

Member of the Habitat for Humanity and Model UN Clubs;

Member of the Huntington Hospital Junior Volunteer Program, and recipient of the First and Second Red and White Stripe Awards for over 100 hours of volunteer service;

Member of the Greenlawn Fire Department as a Junior Volunteer;

Recipient of scholarships from the Greenlawn Fire Department, the PTA, and SEPTA;

Went on a mission trip to The Dominican Republic, helping to build houses and interacting with children at an orphanage;

Employed at Camp Alvernia as a Counselor for 3 years;

At FPCG, he attended Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Youth Group, and Acolyte.;

Will be attending James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, with an intended major in nursing;

Proud Mom is Diane Kirchhoff. Proud Grandmother is Meg Lawrence.



# Prayer Corner

## TESTIMONY

Personal prayer, it seems to me, is one of the simplest necessities of life, as basic to the individual as sunshine, food and water---and at times, of course, more so. By prayer I believe we mean an effort to get in touch with the Infinite. We know that our prayers are imperfect. Of course they are. We are imperfect human beings. A thousand experiences have convinced me beyond room of doubt that prayer multiplies the strength of the individual and brings within the scope of his capabilities almost any conceivable objective.

~Dwight D. Eisenhower

God of steadfast love and mercy, we confess that although You never lose track of us, we often lose track of You in the noisy eventfulness of our lives. Sometimes, when it becomes so loud that we have to cover our ears, we discover to our shock that we are the ones doing the shouting. Quiet all the shrill voices both outside us and within, so that we may hear and heed Your still, small voice, and entrust ourselves again to You.

~F. Woodward

Learn to entwine with your prayers the small cares, the trifling sorrows, the little wants of daily life.

Whatever affects you be it a changed look, an altered tone, an unkind word, a wrong, a wound, a demand you cannot meet, a change you cannot notice, a sorrow you cannot disclose – turn it into prayer, and send it up to God.

Disclosures you may not make to man you can make to the Lord.

Man may be too little for your great matters: God is not too great for your small ones.

Only give yourself to prayer, whatever be the occasion that calls for it.

~Winslow

## HELP

~Tom Hanks

Help publicly.

Help privately.

Help in your actions by recycling and conserving and protecting, but help also in your attitude.

Help make sense where sense has gone missing.

Help bring reason and respect to discourse and debate.

Help science to solve and faith to soothe.

Help law bring justice, until justice in commonplace.

Help and you will abolish apathy- the void that is so quickly filled by ignorance and evil.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

~Philippians 4:6-7

*The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? ~Psalm 27:1*



Please continue to pray for justice, mercy, peace and civility to be present in all God's people as we pray for a way through this global pandemic and for a vaccine to be found soon.

Please continue to pray that we all do that is required to keep safe in this world, and help to keep others safe. Amen.

### Coffee with Friends

*Coffee with Friends* was a project of the Vision 2020 Team, specifically Leonora Colletti, Debbie Eitel, and Larry Foray. For five Wednesdays, from late May through all of June, the Team got church friends together via Zoom for a cup of coffee, jokes, stunts, and lively conversation.



Congratulations and many thanks go to the Vision 2020 Team for this “out-of-the-box thinking” which was just what we needed during this pandemic. Your hard work was much appreciated, and we hope that *Coffee with Friends* will resume in the fall.

### From the Fellowship Director’s Kitchen

Debbie Eitel shared this recipe for Icebox Lemonade Pie during *Coffee with Friends*. Several weeks later, during our virtual Sunday coffee hour, Kathy Fitzgerald raved about how delicious the pie was. I knew that the recipe had to be shared with the congregation. So, instead of a recipe from the Pastor’s kitchen, this month it’s dessert from Debbie!

#### **Icebox Lemonade Pie**

- 1 6-oz. can of frozen pink lemonade
- 1 8-oz. tub of Cool Whip
- 2 cups of vanilla ice cream
- 1 ready-made graham cracker pie crust



Blend the frozen lemonade with an electric mixer. Add the Cool Whip and vanilla ice cream. Blend it all together, and pour the mixture into the pie crust.

Garnish with fresh strawberries or blueberries on top. Freeze until firm – at least 4 hours, or preferably overnight. Remove from freezer 15 minutes before serving. Let stand at room temperature until pie can easily be cut.

### Our Church Officers

#### Session

Betty Chatfield  
Debbie Eitel  
Diane Kirshhoff  
Susan Perrotta  
Ruth Satterlee

#### Deacons

Carolyn Brockett\*  
Corinne Burdett  
Arlissa Dean  
Larry Foray  
Kathleen Gerlach  
Gary Prentiss  
George Santos

(Carolyn is on a temporary Leave of Absence; we look forward to her return very soon.)



I’m not adding this year to my age. I didn’t use it!  
\*\*\*

It takes real skill to choke on air, fall up stairs, and trip over completely nothing. I have that skill.  
\*\*\*

The biggest lie I tell myself is, “I don’t need to write that down. I’ll remember it.”  
\*\*\*

One thing no one ever talks about when it comes to being an adult is how much we debate keeping a cardboard box because you know ... it’s a really good box.  
\*\*\*

Dear July. I don’t want any trouble from you. Just come in, sit down, don’t touch anything, and keep your mouth shut!  
\*\*\*

I’m so bored, I’m ready to call Jake from State Farm and ask him what he’s wearing.  
\*\*\*

No, you haven’t gained that much weight during the quarantine. Come on ... chin up. No, not that chin, the other one.  
\*\*\*

One way to find out if you are old is to fall down in front of a lot of people. If they laugh, you’re still young. If they panic and start running to you, you’re old.

# NEW YORK TOUGH

SMART · UNITED · DISCIPLINED · LOVING

For the past several months, your Pastor, Elders, and Deacons have been working on a plan for the eventual reopening of our church building. We were required to come up with a Safety Plan, based on a template supplied by the State, but unique to our church. The plan is divided into three areas: People, Places, and Process. The following is a summary of what is required by New York State. It applies to us as well as anyone renting space in our building. Our full Safety Plan will be posted on our website by the end of July.

## PEOPLE

Ensure 6 feet distance between people. Face masks to be worn.

Tightly confined spaces will be occupied by only one individual at a time. If occupied by more than one person, occupancy will be kept below 50% of minimum capacity.

Post social distancing markers using tape or signs that denote 6 feet of spacing in commonly used areas.

Limit in-person gatherings as much as possible and use video-conferencing whenever possible. Essential in-person gatherings should be held in open, well-ventilated spaces with appropriate social distancing among participants.

Establish designated areas for pick-ups and deliveries, limiting contact to the extent possible.

## PLACES

Employers must provide employees with an acceptable face covering at no cost to the employee and have an adequate supply of coverings in case of replacement.

Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use or when damaged or soiled, may not be shared, and should properly stored or discarded.

Limit the sharing of objects and discourage touching of shared surfaces, or, when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched areas, wear gloves, or, sanitize or wash hands before and after contact.

Adhere to hygiene and sanitation requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health

(DOH) and maintain cleaning logs on site that document date, time, and scope of cleaning.

Provide and maintain hand hygiene stations for personnel and visitors, including handwashing with soap, water, and paper towels, or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not feasible.

Conduct regular cleaning and disinfecting at least after every shift, daily, or more frequently as needed, and frequent cleaning and disinfection of shared objects and surfaces, as well as high transit areas, such as restrooms and common areas, must be completed.

Post signage throughout the site to remind people to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

Establish a communication plan for employees and visitors, and with a consistent means to provide updated information.

Maintain a continuous log of every person, including workers and visitors, who may have close contact with other individuals at the work site or area, excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means.

If a person tests positive for COVID-19, the church must immediately notify state and local health departments and cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as workers or visitors who had close contact with the individual, while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations.

## PROCESS

Implement mandatory health screening assessment (questionnaire, temperature check) before employees begin work each day and for essential visitors, asking about (1) COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days, (2) positive COVID-19 test in the past 14 days and / or (3) close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in the past 14 days. Assessment responses must be reviewed every day and such review must be documented.

Have a plan for cleaning, disinfecting, and contact tracing in the event of a positive case.