



The Steeple Chimes

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

June, 2020

Pastor's Message

My Beloved Congregants,

On Tuesday, June 2, I sent a Pastoral Letter to you via e-mail. I would like to start my message to you by reprinting that letter.

George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmad Arbery. These people deserved to live their lives in relative privacy, and then die of old age, surrounded by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Now, because of hateful acts of murder, their names have become household words, a consequence of the racism that is alive and well in our country.

Violence against *any* member of our society is unacceptable. Every human being has the right to live without fearing for his/her life, health, family, or property.

We, as Christians, condemn these immoral murders, as well as *all* acts of racism, bigotry, and discrimination. With you, I am appalled and angered. Hateful philosophies and acts do not coexist with the message of love and peace that Jesus taught.

The late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "There is no easy way to create a world where men and women can live together. But if such a world is created in our lifetime, it will be done by rejecting the racism, materialism, and violence that has characterized Western civilization, and especially by working toward a world of brotherhood, cooperation, and peace."

Friends, let us resolve to speak up and to work to dismantle racism – a task that will involve the transformation of both minds and hearts. Dr. Joel N. Lohr, President of Hartford Seminary, put it this way: "God is up to something in our world. In whatever ways we can and whatever ways we are, let's work for the change we need to see in our country and world."

As is written in the Book of Amos, let us "not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

As we are all too well aware, COVID-19 has not gone away. But the numbers *have* gone down in New York State, thanks to the great care everyone has shown in wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

Let me digress for a minute and offer a silent prayer of thanks for the health professionals and essential workers who have kept our country running for the past three months. May we always value their gifts and their service to the community. May we never, ever take these people for granted!



So, where does that leave us, the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn? When will we be together again?

We are working on re-opening. Churches will be part of Phase 4 of the *New York Forward* initiative. (As of this writing, we are about to enter Phase 2.) Before we open, we have to develop a written *COVID-19 Reopening Safety Plan*, and then file it with New York State. We are in the beginning stages of working on that plan. We will keep you informed.

To quote William Shatner / Captain James T. Kirk, albeit a bit out of context, we are seeking “To boldly go where no man has gone before.” Or, to put it another way, “We’re building this plane while we’re flying it.”

Speaking of new things, our Vision 2020 Team has come up with a wonderful Wednesday night program called *Coffee with Friends*. It’s a fun fellowship experience that takes place on your computer through Zoom every Wednesday night at 7:00. Please see the article on page 3 for more information.

Meanwhile, we continue to worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 via Zoom. Many people log on at 10:00 to greet and catch up with friends. Our fellowship continues with a virtual coffee hour after worship. Attendance at worship has been quite good as we worship God and share the love we have for one another. You will find the sign-in information below.

May the Lord bless you and keep you until we meet again!

With love and blessings,

Pastor Ann

Zoom Worship – Now through August 16

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 June 28, the Meeting ID is 936 5428 0642. The passcode is 575074.

From July 5 through August 16, the Meeting ID is 984 5175 3501. The passcode is 035680.

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.

Please note:

I think my Internet problems have been solved! The Optimum repairman was here for two hours earlier this week. Hopefully, I will not be “disappearing” in the middle of worship any more!



We express our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of:

- Amalia Hansen (mother of Althea Segale), who passed away on April 30.
- Steven Siegman (husband of our church secretary, Linda Siegmann), who passed away on May 23.
- The Rev. Dr. Tim Hoyt Duncan (former Pastor at The First Presbyterian Church of Northport) who passed away on May 7.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithfully departed, in the mercy of God rest in peace.

Zoom Worship at FPC Greenlawn

The 4th Sunday of the Easter Season is known as *Good Shepherd Sunday*. We celebrated that on May 3, with Psalm 23 as our theme.

On May 10, we went outside of the Lectionary to celebrate *Mother's Day*. The sermon was about Shiphrah and Puah. You mean you never heard of them? Then you might want to read Exodus 1:8-22.

On May 17, we dealt with our exhaustion around COVID-19, with a service titled *Life Has Changed, but God Has Not*. Our opening hymn was particularly meaningful: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*.

On *Memorial Day Sunday*, May 24, we remembered those who gave their lives in service to our country, and we read the names of friends and relatives who recently entered Life Eternal.

May 31 was *Pentecost Sunday*, when the Holy Spirit came upon the Disciples as a sound of wind from Heaven and as tongues of fire resting on each one of them. The sermon was about the numerous gifts of the Holy Spirit.



One of our Zoom coffee hours

Coffee with Friends

Do you miss visiting with friends while you are sheltering in place during this COVID-19 lockdown? If so, you might want to try our new *Coffee with Friends*!

Coffee with Friends is a project of our Vision 2020 Team. Every Wednesday night, we get together via Zoom for a cup of coffee and some lively conversation.

(Okay, rumor has it that there has been something



stronger than coffee in some of those cups! But don't worry, nobody has been checking.)

The Vision 2020 Team, consisting of Leonora Colletti, Debbie Eitel, and Larry Foray, leads us in jokes, stunts, and merry conversation. We have seen Leonora in a bright green wig, and Debbie in a purple one. Leonora has told jokes. (What do you say when someone steals your coffee at work? "I've been mugged!") Larry seems to enjoy playing "straight man." Debbie came up with an insane game of "Corona Bingo." ("Put an X in the box if you have ever forgotten what day it was!")

If you would like to join in the fun and fellowship, here's how to log on. We hope to see you there!

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 513 160 9102

Passcode: 584285

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.)



Prayer Corner

Lord, Make Us Strong
~Norman Vincent Peale

Our Heavenly Father,
we ask You to forgive us for anything we may have
said, thought, or done
that isn't compatible with Your Spirit.
Continue to make us stronger
that we may be able to withstand temptation
and weaknesses of any kind.
If there are shadows in the mind,
lift them now by the power of Your Spirit.
Bless us with a courageous, strong,
and loving heart.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your strength. These
commandments that I give you today are to be upon
your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk
about them when you sit at home and when you
walk along the road, when you lie down and when
you get up. Deuteronomy 6:5-7*

Lord, help us to learn how to face every storm with
confidence, knowing we are never alone.
You are with us always.
Help us to choose the right path.
Guide us through uncertain times.
Help us to be good stewards
of what you have given us.
This we ask in Jesus name. Amen

An Inspiring Thought from the Late Barbara Bush,
Speaking at the 1990 Wellesley College
Commencement:

"Who knows? Somewhere out in this audience
may even be someone who will one day follow in
my footsteps and preside over the White House as
the president's spouse---and I wish him well."

Please pray for
an end to this
pandemic and a
new vaccine for
COVID-19.

Please pray for
an end to the
violence that starts
off as protests.

Please pray for all caregivers, especially family
members, at this trying time.

Please pray for all who have lost their jobs and
are facing economic uncertainty caused by COVID-
19.

Please pray for all who are fighting addictions of
any kind, and family and friends who try to help
them cope.

Please continue to pray for medical personnel
and volunteer responders; all who care for nursing
home patients; all churches and church leaders
across the world; and all who need His help.



FATHER

**"Fathers are a combination
of many special qualities."** ~B. R. Pulsifer

"F" stands for forgiving; the ability to
understand that mistakes made are the tools for new
learning, not as a reason for negative punishment
that only hurts;

"A" stands for affectionate; the constant
quality that is always present no matter whether in
private or public, and is given without reservation;

"T" stands for teacher; the ability to share
through experience, to lead by example, and to help
see that negatives can be turned to positives;

"H" stands for harmony; the ability to show
that balance in life is attainable and where the
demonstration of compromise sets the best example
of a needed life skill;

"E" stands for equity; the building of a valued
relationship occurs through each day, not just set
aside for special days, and where love is built upon
as a constant, not as an exception;

"R" stands for reason; where decisions are
explained, where children are involved in the
process of decision making, and not as simply blind
obedience.

A Mother's Love

By Michael O. Adesanya

There are times when only a Mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappointments
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a Mother's love
Can share the joy we feel,
When something we have dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a Mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith
And a Mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the Angels
And sent from God above.



An Update on Our Grant Applications

We are pleased to report that we received a Protection Program (PPP) Grant through the government. The grant money had initially run out, but we received the PPP funds on the second release. This will enable us to continue paying our staff.

The Small Business Administration disaster grant ran out of funds, so we won't be receiving any of that money.

We received a grant from the Presbyterian Church (USA) called a *Matthew 25 Grant*. This is specifically to be used to help minority communities. We will use these funds to help our nesting congregations with their building rent while they work to "get back on their feet."

Grants are extremely competitive, and not everyone who applies receives one. We are grateful that those who administer these grants looked favorably upon our applications.

An Continuing Look at Our Finances

We made it through another month "in the black." Thank you so much for your continuing support of our church and our ministry during this challenging but temporary period.

We appreciate those who have kept up with their pledges, those who have given what they could, and those who have made special gifts.

Thank you again, and may God bless you.

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
497 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740

From the Pastor's Kitchen

Because of my husband Bob's tick bite disease, which has resulted in an allergy to red meat and dairy, I have had to look for some creative ways to prepare fish.

I found this baked fish recipe on the Internet. It calls for tilapia, but I find it also works with flounder, haddock, and other types of fish. (By the way, Aldi has a very nice selection of frozen fish.)

Ingredients:

- 4 fish filets
- 2 teaspoons of margarine
- 1 teaspoon of Old Bay Seasoning
- ½ teaspoon of garlic salt
- 1 lemon, sliced (I use lemon juice)
- 1 16 oz. package of frozen vegetables
(Sometimes I'll add some cut-up potatoes.)

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a large baking dish.
- Place the fish in the bottom of the baking dish and dot with margarine. Season with Old Bay and garlic salt. Top each filet with a slice or two of lemon. Arrange veggies around fish. (Optional – season lightly with salt and pepper.)
- Cover and bake 25 – 30 minutes until veggies are tender and fish flakes easily with a fork.

It's easy, doesn't take long, and, best of all, Bob says it's delicious!



Food Pantry

Even though our church building is closed, our Food Pantry is still available to those in need. You may call the church office at (631) 261-2150 to arrange for a grocery bag pick-up. Please leave a message; we will get back to you.



Internet and Telephone Scams

We've all seen them.

"Dearest, my husband died and left me a million dollars, but I can't get it out of Nigeria. Please give me your bank account number so I can deposit my money safely in your account."

"You are entitled to a free back brace. Medicare will pay for it. Please give me your Medicare number so I can send you one."

"Grandma, I'm in jail and I need bail money."

"My friend, I'm in London and I got robbed. My plane tickets are gone. Please lend me money so I can buy new ones. I'll pay you back."

Now they're hitting on people who have "Rev." or "Pastor" in front of their names. Many of my friends have been targeted, including my Conference Minister! "Please buy an i-Tunes card and send me the numbers. I want to cheer up a sick friend in the hospital, and I don't have time to go to the store."

Friends, no member of the clergy will EVER ask you to do such a thing. If you ever get an e-mail from a clergyperson asking you to buy a card (Amazon card, Google Play card, or ANY kind of card) and send the numbers to you, don't fall for it. It's a scam.

And while we're at it, please don't fill out those Facebook questionnaires asking for your favorite color, your first pet's name, or the name of your second grade teacher. Those are all answers to back-up questions to retrieve a lost password.

Also, Loews is not going to send you a free gift card for liking and sharing their ad. Stay safe and smart!



Laughter is the Best Medicine

- Whoever said, "Out of sight, out of mind" never had a spider disappear in the bedroom,
- In 25 years, when kids ask about the 2020 toilet paper shortage, I'm telling them we had to drag our rear ends across the lawn. In the snow. Uphill. Both ways.
- Home school day # 45: My kid asked why I was talking to myself. I told her it was a parent-teacher conference.
- If you see my kid on Zoom in the same clothes he's been wearing for the past 5 days, mind your own business. Our homeschool has a uniform.
- When we come out of this sheltering in place thing and I ask you where you want to eat, I do *not* want to hear, "I don't know." YOU'VE HAD 3 MONTHS TO THINK ABOUT IT!
- I sent my son next door with a packed suitcase. They called asking why. I said he is a Home School Foreign Exchange Student.
- Yesterday, my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.
- New monthly budget: Clothes - \$0. Gas - \$0, Entertainment - \$0. Groceries - \$1624.
- I'm so bored. By the time this is all over, I'm going to know how to fold a fitted sheet!
- Returned from the grocery store with the hubby. Took masks off. It turned out it was the wrong hubby! Be attentive!
- Remember when we were little and had underwear with the days of the week on them? Yeah, those would be helpful right now.
- And just like that, having a mask, rubber gloves, duct tape, and rope in your trunk is okay.