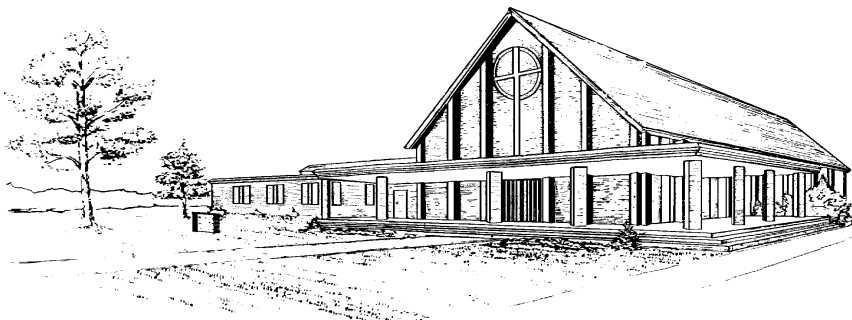


STEEPLE CHIMES

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn

ISSUE: Two Hundred Ten

APRIL 2018



Message From the Pastor

Like an April Fool's joke that we don't see coming, Easter takes us by surprise. Easter is what we don't expect, but that for which we have been waiting our whole lives long.

Like a good April Fool's joke, Easter can make us giddy with mirth and laughter. What God has done for us in raising Jesus Christ is akin to what God had done for barren Sarah when He eastered her from her hopelessness into the laughter of God with the birth of her son Isaac. In receiving that newness that she could not explain, Sarah giddily accepted what she had cynically laughed off as impossible (Gen. 18:10-16), that God really could do a new thing with her, in her, for her and for the world God so greatly loves. And so when what God had implausibly promised had come to pass, Sarah joined our God who always laughs last and best. It was then that she declared, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me" (Gen. 21:6).

On Easter, which we celebrate this year on April Fool's Day, we join the very laughter of God, who "brings life to the dead, and brings into existence the things that do not exist" (Rom. 4:17). On Easter we join God in blowing raspberries at the power of death in our lives and in the life of our world.

Should it strike us as incongruous that we celebrate Easter on April Fool's Day, we may recall the words of the Apostle Paul, a fool for Christ if ever there was one. According to Paul, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate'... but to those whom God has called ...(Christ Crucified is) the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength" (I Cor. 1:18-19, 24-25).

Even those of us who are in on the joke may be surprised at being loved back to life over and over again. Like those of us who expect an April Fools joke may soon be coming our way, we may even be apprehensive. After all, what might "being made alive" mean for us, demand of us? For what if life as it is given to us, unearned and undeserved, is finally beyond our management and control? What if our lives are not really our own? What if life is not about us, but we are about Life? What would it mean to really yield to such grace, to consent to such healing?

Whatever our answers, Easter, like April Fools Day, begins with a peal of laughter. So join us on Easter Sunday, April Fools Day, as we gather at the empty tomb to scoff at death, and to crow with Christ that although death may have spoken, death does not have the final word in His life or in our own.

See you in church,
Pastor Fred

Have you paid your Per Capita?

What Is Per Capita?

Per Capita or “Apportionment” is the amount contributed to Presbytery by every Presbyterian Church (USA) church member. It is the membership “dues” we pay to belong to the interconnected Presbyterian church system – a theologically based system of caring for one another in Christ from church to church and region to region.

Per Capita/Apportionment: For 2018, the per capita amount for each of our church members is \$36.83. Every one of our church members, that means each spouse, partner, and every confirmed child in every family, is counted on our rolls and asked to make a payment of \$36.83 this year as his or her per capita payment. (For example, a family of four, even with children who were confirmed here but have grown and moved away but are still on our rolls, would pay a total of \$147.32 as its per capita apportionment to the church.)

What happens to your per capita contributions: Each church Session then pays the aggregate amount of our congregants’ per capita payments, based on our total roll of members, to the Presbytery. We pay this full amount even if not every member pays his or her part – which means the money must come from the general budget. If not all members pay their apportionment, the shortfall puts additional strain on other programming and ministry work at the local church level. This is why we encourage all members to make this minimum payment every year.

The Presbytery uses the aggregate of all the churches’ apportionments to cover its running costs. Of the total apportionment payments received by Presbytery, 72% is spent here on Long Island to keep our local Presbytery functioning, used primarily for Presbytery staff salaries, building heat and lighting, and administration. The Long Island Presbytery then pays a small percentage of the total apportionment amounts received to: (i) our regional ruling body, the Synod of the North-East (4%), and (ii) our national ruling body the General Assembly (24%).

What we get back: an interconnected church organization – help when we need it. In return for the per capita amount we pay to the Presbytery of Long Island, the Presbytery takes care of us, together with all the other churches on Long Island, through shared resources: people, materials, knowledge, fellowship, and financial aid, when needed. The Presbytery communicates with all the churches, keeping everyone on the same page. Per capita “is the glue that holds Presbyterians together.” It is a payment that permits all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church. We function interdependently, and, thus, share our costs and our resources. This is part of being a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA).





Holy Week & Easter

March 30th ~ Good Friday Worship ~ 7:30 pm

April 1 ~ Easter Sunday

9:00 am ~ Easter Breakfast

10:30 am ~ Worship with Flowering of the Cross



CHURCH WORK DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH ~ 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

**COME HELP GET OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS READY FOR
SPRING AND SUMMER!**

**~Something for everyone to do ~
Sign up on poster in hall by the office**

20 Ways To Be Good To People

Show Appreciation: Showing appreciation communicates value in relationships and goes a long way.

Forgive. Forgive. Forgive. : Forgive over and over again. It doesn't mean you don't protect yourself by creating boundaries, but you avoid harboring bitterness and resentment in your heart.

Don't Raise Your Voice: Tone of voice can turn an argument into a calm discussion.

Speak The Truth, in Love: Nothing wrong with telling it like it is, just add love to the equation, to keep it healthy for both people.

Listen to Learn: Don't always listen to respond, listen to learn and understand the one of the heart speaking.

Value Their Individuality: Differences make relationships work. It's a sharing of strengths and an offsetting of weaknesses. Thank someone for their individuality and what it brings to your life.

Acknowledge and Respond: Active listening tells someone I care and I understand.

Don't Always Be a Fixer: Put your toolset away and try to only fix problems that you're asked to.

Practice The Golden Rule: Always treat others the way you wish to be treated. We learned it in pre-school and it still applies today.

Be There When They Fall: Everyone needs to be picked up from time to time. If a friend falls, be quick to help them get back on their feet.

Encourage and Uplift: Sharing encouragement is like sharing strength and lending it to someone at a time when they need it most.

Enhance Their Good Qualities: Don't dwell on the inadequacies of others. Instead celebrate what makes them great.

Give Plenty of Kind Words: Be generous with kindness and don't let a kind word go unsaid.

Share A Good Book: Share a book that helped you get through a tough situation.

Believe The Best: Condition your mind to always see and believe the best.

Avoid Faultfinding: Faultfinding chokes the life out of any relationship and devalues another.

Respect, Even if you Don't Agree: Honor everyone, even if you disagree.

Be A Shoulder to Cry On: Emotional healing takes time and a good friend that will lighten the load of the journey.

Bring Peace to a Room: Peace is a vital component to harmonious living. Always enter a room making peace a priority.

Be a Doer: When you get the next urge to be good to someone in any way, just do it!

Submitted by Debbie Fitel

April Youth Happenings

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

Saturday April 14 - Church Clean Up Day 10Am-1Pm

Come help us Spring Clean and Beautify our church! Let's make it Sparkle!
Light Refreshments will be provided.



Sunday April 22 - Community Food Drive

Hand out flyer & bags for Community food drive
~Immediately after church service

Saturday April 28 - Deacon Spring Festival

9Am - 4 PM - All help or volunteers appreciated!

Sunday April 29 - Community Food Drive Collection

Go around in the Community and pick up bags of donated food for our Church Food Pantry. Immediately after church service.

PRAYER CORNER

APRIL 2018

I SERVE A RISEN SAVIOR

~Alfred H. Ackley

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair;
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
No other is so loving, so good and kind.

ON THIS DAY OF RESURRECTION

~F. Woodward

Mighty God, by the power of Your sovereign love You have removed the sting of death, raising Christ to life to rule this world in mercy. And yet we falter in our trust, and lose our sense of gladness, gratitude and wonder. In the narrowing circles of our self-concern we neglect our neighbors, and fail to look for the Risen Christ in the faces of the least among us. On this day of Resurrection, raise us up, and help us pay closer attention to the evidence of Christ's life-giving presence all around us and in us. Free us for joy in the victory of Jesus Christ, who puts down every power to hurt or destroy. Amen

Lord, lay on my heart whom I should pray for today.
Show me how to encourage them, I pray.
Touch someone's heart to pray for me, too,
And bless our friendship with each other and you.

~N. D. Hall

TAKE TIME

~unknown

Take time to THINK; it is the source of power.

Take time to READ; it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to PLAY; it is the secret of staying young.

Take time to be QUIET; it is the opportunity to see God.

Take time to be AWARE; it is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to LOVE and BE LOVED; it is God's greatest gift.

Take time to LAUGH; it is the music of the soul.

Take time to be FRIENDLY; it is the road to happiness.

Take time to DREAM; it is what the future is made of.

Take time to PRAY; it is the greatest power on earth.

DEACON'S SPRING FAIR

**Saturday, April 28th
9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Vendors ~ Snack Bar (hot dogs and drinks)

Donations of clean, gently used items needed! (no books, please)

April Foolishness- Twists for the Slightly Twisted

- ◆ You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish
- ◆ To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
- ◆ When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- ◆ The poor thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- ◆ When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
- ◆ The batteries were given out free of charge.
- ◆ A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- ◆ A will is a dead giveaway.
- ◆ With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- ◆ A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- ◆ When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
- ◆ Police were called to a day care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- ◆ The poor fellow had had his whole left side was cut off, but he's all right now.
- ◆ A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two-tired.
- ◆ When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- ◆ The poor guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- ◆ He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- ◆ When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
- ◆ Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- ◆ Pity the poor poet goes from bad to verse.
- ◆ Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.



Submitted by Pastor Fred

First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn



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

Sunday Worship

Sunday School

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?"*