



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

January 2021

1st Presbyterian Church on the Park
17 Park Street
Canton, NY 13617

Phone (315) 386-2570
www.ChurchOnThePark.org
Office@ChurchOnThePark.org

Ways To Worship

After consultation with the Re-Opening Committee and continuing to follow all safety protocols, we will be resuming in-person worship **Sunday January 3rd** at **10 a.m.** With the guidance of ushers, people enter the foyer, sanitize their hands and proceed to a designated pew. After worship, people directly leave the church with no gathering. The in-person option is for those who feel comfortable doing so.

We also encourage people to join in via the **livestream** on our [YouTube channel](#) (you can also watch a recording later in the week). After worship, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m, there is **Fellowship time via Zoom**. Many ways to be the church!



See Page 7 For Information About Virtual Worship & Fellowship.

eNewsletter?

If you received a hard copy of this newsletter in the mail but have an email address to which it could be sent, please contact RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org

Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro..... Pastor
Donna Doig, CLP..... Associate Pastor
Karen Bailey.....Office Coordinator
Jarrett Larson.....Choir Director
Bob Duda.....Assistant Choir Director
Jarrett Larson.....Organist
Michael Walters.....Handbell Choir Director
TBD.....Director of Christian Education
Mary McGreevy.....Treasurer
Patience Boswell..... Sexton
Tom Dildine.....Webmaster
Linda Potter.....Newsletter Editor

Church Office Hrs: 1 - 4 p.m., Mon., Tues. & Thur.

2021 Per Capita

Our **notice of apportionment** from the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 2021 amounts to **\$31.00 per active member** or **\$3,038** total (based on 98 members in 2018) to be paid on or before February 1st. This is the money that the church pays for services provided by the church organization (General Assembly, Synod of the Northeast & Presbytery of NNY).

If you are able to include a Per Capita donation during January, it would SIGNIFICANTLY help our 2021 budget.

Virtual Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! Our **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will take place on **Sunday, February 7th** at 11:30 a.m. and will be held this year via Zoom. To join the meeting, follow the instructions for the **Zoom Fellowship** call on **page 7**. The Annual Meeting will take the place of our Fellowship call that day. The **deadline to receive annual reports is Thursday, January 14th**. This will give us enough time to assemble the reports and make them available to the congregation.

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Family News

Prayers for **Bob Fraser** recovering from medical procedures and who will be undergoing surgery in the first week of the new year; and for **Betty**, his daughter **Karen McAuliffe** and their family in this difficult time. Cards may be sent to 49 Bird Street, Canton, NY 13617.

We are saddened to learn of the death of Peg Wilkinson, wife of **Randy Wilkinson** who was a member of our congregation prior to his death. Prayers for their daughters Mary & Meg.

Prayers for **Tom Potter Jr.** and his family on the death of his grandmother, Sylvia Potter, in Ohio; and for her son, **Tom Potter Sr.**

Prayers for the family of **Ginny Dittman**, a former member of our church, who died in mid-December while under the care of Hospice. Cards may be sent to her daughter (Rev.) Sharon Dittman, 3270 Duboise Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

Prayers for **Tom Dildine** who received a pacemaker for Christmas, and as he continues to contend with irregular heart rhythms, and for his daughter **Kimberly Dildine** now being treated for the same.

Prayers for **Christa Lyon** experiencing pain and difficulty with her knee replacement; **Tucker Catanzaro** diagnosed with, and being treated for Lyme's Disease; and **Bill Rodee** who continues to make strides with rehabilitation, and for **Marilyn** in support of him.

Prayers for **Rob Ewy's** father, Arnold Ewy, who tested positive for Covid-19 in December. He presented as asymptomatic at first, and doesn't have underlying conditions, except that he is 96. Let us all keep Arnold in our prayers.



Family News - cont.

Prayers of healing for **Bill Parker's** sister Cindy Brower facing the possibility of additional surgery, and his nephew Greg Parker, and his wife Christina and their two sons ailing from COVID.

Prayers for our former secretary, **Aimee LaRue**, and her parents, Mike and Linda, who were infected by COVID just before Thanksgiving. Her father suffered only mild symptoms, but she and her mom had more serious, with lingering negative respiratory effects. Let us all keep Aimee and her parents in prayer. Card would be appreciated: 16 Pine Street, Norwood NY 13668.



Prayers for Josee Merlini, mother of **Patrick LaPierre**, facing significant health issues; and for Patrick as he tries to support her.

Continued prayers for **Nicholas Boswell** recovering well from kidney transplant surgery, and for **Patience, Cameron** and **Aubrey**.

Prayers for **Patience Boswell**, and all the staff and residents of area nursing homes who have been so terribly afflicted; and for **Jodi Upton** and all the front-line workers who continue to put their own health at risk to help others.

Prayers for Jodie, sister of **Susan Akins**, who is being treated for cancer; **Jane Cable's** sister and her husband, Beth & Ron Maifeld, who are both quite ill with Covid; and Andrew Putman (friend of **Jean & Pat McGuire**) recovering from a stroke.

Prayers for **all the children of our church, and their parents**, struggling to balance school, work and family lives.

Reflections On Hospice

This December, **Rev. Mike** was asked to share his reflections and experiences on **Hospice** as part of a radio interview and subsequent article in NCNow:

*In 23 years of ministry here in the North Country, I've officiated at hundreds of funerals. More meaningfully, though, is the time I've spent **with** those individuals and families as they, or their loved ones, journey through the last chapters of life.*

From these experiences two things have become absolutely clear. First, there are incredible gifts to be both given and received at the end of life. Certainly, there is tremendous sadness and a great many tears, but also profound joys and laughter. Words are said, hugs and comfort given, old wounds healed, new hopes expressed and families experience a unique bond which carries them not just through their current grief, but into the rest of their lives together. It is a profoundly humbling thing to witness. Second, the very best and easiest way to allow such gifts to be given and received, is to have the support of Hospice; and the sooner the better.

*Every single experience I've ever had with Hospice has been not just "good," it has been **outstanding**. From the physical and emotional support, to the relationships that are formed with the nurses and volunteers, to opportunities that Hospice provides for families to care for and express their love for each other.*

Often there are very few choices that can be made at the end of life, but choosing to have Hospice support you, and your family, is one of greatest gifts you can give to yourself and the ones you love.



Thanks For the Wonderful Christmas Presents!

Special thanks to **Tucker Catanzaro** for assembling, editing and producing this year's video [Christmas Card](#) and pre-recorded Christmas Eve [Service of Lessons & Carols](#) (click on the link(s) to view). We'd also like to thank everyone for contributing videos and photos, all the participants who came to the church to record their parts for the service, **Bob Duda** for helping to envision and craft the liturgy, **Rob Ewy** for helping with readers, and profound thanks to **Jarrett Larson** who continues to amaze us, move us, and bless us with his leadership and talent.



You Are So Sweet!

A huge, sweet-smelling thank you to **Beth Hayes, Julia Basford, Katie Seymour, Sarah Rodee** for cooking up a big batch of **caramel corn** for the kids of our church this Christmas!



Rev. Mike was able to deliver bags of this delicious treat to the homes of the **50+ kids** in our church on Christmas Eve day. It isn't really Christmas without caramel corn from the Church on the Park. The tradition lives on!

New Clerk of Session

Janet Stitt has offered to serve as our new Clerk of Session beginning in 2021! Janet brings a **wealth** of experience in all things Presbyterian (not to mention a fair bit of **wisdom**) to this very important role within our church. We thank her for stepping up to fill Sarah's (and Wanda's and Jean's) very big shoes.

Church Attendance

	In-Person	Live Stream
December 6	15	26
December 13	17	27
December 20	Live Stream Only - 35	
December 27	3	32

Average In-Person Attendance: 12
 Average Live-Stream Attendance: 30

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
December 9	\$5,357.00	\$1,006.00
December 17	\$1,887.00	\$ 834.00
December 20	\$4,750.00	\$ 0.00
Total:	\$11,994.00	\$1,840.00

Thank you for all those who are able to make pledges and gifts to the church.

We are able to pay our bills & provide care to our community. Your generosity is appreciated.

Deacons' Offering

A reminder that though most folks are worshipping via the live-stream, we are still receiving the Deacons' Offering the **first Sunday** of every month. This is a vital component of our church's work and mission. Please remember to send along a contribution to the Deacons along with your pledge or regular offering. **Thank you!**



Missing Pumps !?!

We recently discovered that two spare **circulator pumps** have gone missing from the **boiler room**. They are red, and were in cardboard boxes. Over the years, Jim Durham has made sure to have extras on-hand in case of emergency need. One needs to be changed out right now, and this is how we discovered their absence. If anyone has seen these please contact **Rev. Mike** asap.

Officers & Committees

Elders

To strengthen and nurture the faith and the life of the congregation.

Rich Grayson	Patrick LaPierre	Martha Cole
Pat Mace	Keli Hollis	Ellen MacMaster
Beth Hayes	Tom Dildine	Pat McGuire
Janice Reynolds	Bill Parker	Gordy Theisen
Janet Stitt - Clerk Of Session		

Deacons

Ministering to the sick, those in need, the friendless, and those in distress.

Arvilla Aldous	Susan Akins	Ellen Grayson
Vicki McLain	Georgia Vose	Marilyn Coir
Nancy Brown	Bob Duda	Michelle Theisen
Jean McGuire	Stacie Olney-LaPierre	

Committees

Chairs

Resources Jim Franklin & Keli Hollis
 Responsible for managing and dispensing funds to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.

Facilities Rich Grayson, Gordy Theisen & Beth Hayes

Responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property.

Fellowship Ellen Grayson, Pat Mace & Beth Hayes

Responsible for all fellowship events.

Nominating Bill Parker, Ellen Grayson & Barb Brown

Responsible for filling Session, Deacons & Offices.

Education Beth Hayes

Responsible for growth, nurturing & learning.

Worship TBD

With pastor, responsible for worship.

Stewardship Patrick LaPierre

Responsible for securing resources and energy to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.

Mission Martha Cole

Helping our church, community & world.

Treasurer Mary McGreevy

Financial Secretaries Barry Walch

Janice Reynolds

Church & Community JJ Jockel

& Sean Boutin

Communion Pat Mace & Vicki McLain

Personnel Pat Mace & Tom Dildine

The Pastor's Report

A very Happy New Year to all of you! I trust that Santa was good to everyone and that you each enjoyed a wonderful (though certainly different) holiday filled with the Christmas Spirit. Let's face it, 2020 was a tough one, and we are all holding tight to a deep sense of hopeful expectation for this next year.

Like all of you, I'm sure, I find the weeks surrounding Christmas to be a heady and heartfelt mix of thankfulness and generosity. While our minds swim at both the bounty we enjoy and an awareness of the needs of others, our hearts soar by the love we are shown and share. For me, these past few weeks have opened a window on the truly wonderful community of faith we have created for ourselves in our church, as well as the profoundly compassionate ways in which we, as that community, reach out to an often woeful world.

A heart-felt thank you to all for supporting this church with your mission pledge, individual donations, and special contributions particularly to the monthly Deacon and annual Farm Family Offerings. This year at Christmas we were able to provide \$7,000 to 54 families in the our community and throughout the county. Your generosity is humbling and inspiring. Thanks also to Marilyn Rodeo for her leadership and efforts in making the Farm Family Offering happen.

I would also like to thank everyone for the overwhelmingly positive and generous response to our annual Stewardship Drive. We begin the year on a better financial footing than we have in a very long time. Though COVID has brought many terrible changes to our world, it has not been without its gifts. The experience of the past year has

helped all of us to better discern that which we value and treasure most in our lives.

I would also like to thank everyone for the great efforts you've made to stay connected. From learning and utilizing the technology to Zoom and live-stream, to making the leap from hard copy to electronic version of the monthly newsletter, to availing oneself of the written sermons being sent out, to reading all the emails which have become a necessary form of our communication, we have evidenced a very admirable "can do" spirit which has allowed our church to actually thrive, rather than merely survive, these many months of adversity and isolation. Well done! Bravo!

As we welcome what we hope to be a brighter new year, and with the prospect of a widely available vaccine on the way, we need to continue our vigilance in safe-guarding our own lives and those of our neighbors. Another task, however, will be to endeavor to remember and retain the very valuable lessons this past year has taught us about life and our lives together. Cherish each other, enjoy every moment and point of connection however small, keep hope alive in the actions of our lives, honor blessings with gratitude, set and keep the right priorities, take the long-view, focus on what we have rather than have not, and truly enjoy every opportunity in the wild and wonderful ride through this world that is life. And, always remember the vital place our faith has in each and all of our days, in every relationship, and in what we are choosing to build as our future together (because it is a choice).

In the Spirit of hope and thanksgiving,
- Rev. Mike

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." - 1 Peter 5:10

JANUARY Birthdays

- 4 Max Athanasakis
- 7 Karen McAuliffe, Maria Peacock
- 8 Beth Ann Russell, Emily Ames
- 9 Amanda Peacock
- 13 Lauren Smith, Rebecca Welsch, Kimberly Dildine
- 15 Rance Bell
- 17 Nathan Gibson
- 20 Gerard & Michaela Powers
- 21 Daniel Gordon
- 26 Bob Fraser
- 27 Allyson Janack
- 28 Charles "Chuck" Alexander
- 30 Eleanor Aldous, Ryan McAuliffe

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 4 Rance & Kelly Davis, Jack & Margaret Wylie

Contact the church office with your birthday so we can keep our list current!

Parents! Grandparents!

Shout out and **share** the word about your kids and grandkids in **Student News!** Send in their **accomplishments** and **achievements** in the classroom, on the field and in the community to the church office (315) 386-2570 or office@ChurchOnThePark.org.

Pastoral Care And Communication

With face-to-face conversations a challenge, please know that Rev. Mike is available at *anytime* to talk about about matters both large or small.

He can be reached on his cell phone at (716) 857-0111 for voice or FaceTime video chat, or through Skype at revmike70, or via a ZOOM chat in his "meeting room" accessed through this link <https://zoom.us/j/6360764407>, or email at RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org

January Lectionary Readings

January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm 147:12-20
 Ephesians 1:3-14
 John 1:(1-9) 10-18



Epiphany of the Lord - January 6

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord - January 10

Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1:4-11

January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51

January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20

January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1:21-28

Christmas Giving ReCap

Great thanks to the entire congregation for your tremendous generosity this year in supporting our annual Christmas Giving Program; especially the response to the Farm Family Offering. Our church was able to distribute **\$7,000** of Christmas cheer to **54 families** here in Canton and the surrounding area which includes **\$1,500** for Farm Families. **We are an amazing congregation with glad and generous hearts!**

Stewardship Update

The **strong** and **generous** response to our Stewardship Campaign certainly proves that difficult times do often bring out the best in people. Currently, we have **55** total pledge units which include 11 units that have not pledged before and 11 units able to increase their previous pledge. This means the total pledged is **\$109,424** (\$101,022 for General Fund and \$8,407 for Mission). This compares to 2020 when we had a total pledged amount of \$94,616 (\$85,280 for General Fund and \$7,536 for Mission).

We are so grateful for your outstanding support! **Thank you.**

Congratulations Jorge!

Congratulations to **Jorge Nsundidi** who recently received his M.S. Management degree with specialization in Information Technology from SUNY Potsdam. Jorge is the first ever graduate of this of this online program! Cards of congratulations can be sent to him at 32 Main St Apt C, Potsdam NY 13676.

Jorge has a blog where he shares his thoughts and insights about business management and life in general. Read it at <https://fromtheguts.com/>.

*Saving
Grace*

As year by year in ceaseless love
your mercy never fails,
We see your blessing from above
on fruitful hills and dales;
So truly we give thanks to you,
O Giver of all good,
And offer now before this meal
our greatest gratitude.

Virtual Worship & Fellowship

For live-streaming, fellowship, bulletins, sermons newsletter and other resources, **begin by bookmarking the church website:** www.ChurchOnThePark.org. "Click" on the relevant link at the top of the page.

A **live-stream** of the worship service is on the church's YouTube Channel. Go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click on "YouTube Channel." You can choose to subscribe to our channel or simply go to this link each week.

Zoom Fellowship calls each Sunday from **11:30 a.m. to Noon** for fellowship only with no format or moderator. If needed, download the ZOOM app ahead of time by clicking on this link (free):

<https://zoom.us/download>. One you have the Zoom app, go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click on "Sunday Zoom Meeting". You will be asked to enter a password which is **3862570** (the phone number of the church). The meeting will automatically begin at 11:30 a.m. & end at 12:45 p.m.

Worship bulletins are posted earlier in the week to the church website for those worshiping virtually through the stream on our YouTube channel. This will allow everyone the opportunity to follow the liturgy, and see the announcements and prayer requests. Go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click on "Sunday Bulletin."

Written sermons will continue to be emailed, or snail-mailed, on *Monday* to everyone each week; as well as being posted to the church website. Go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click on "Written Sermons."

The monthly **Newsletter** will continue to be emailed to most, and snail-mailed to a few; as well as being posted to the church website (click on "Newsletter").

Prayer Warriors

Would you like to help your neighbor, stretch spiritually and be a part of the mystical movement of the church? We are always looking for new prayer warriors to join the church

Prayer Chain to offer prayers for folks who are ill, troubled or in need.

If you want to learn more about the prayer chain, call **Rev. Mike** at 386-2570 or **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.



Photo Directory

A newly up-dated Photo Directory is available online through the church website <https://churchonthepark.org>. From the Home Page click on the link to **Church Photo Directory** in the menu at the top. This will take you to a new page which will prompt you to type in the password. Type in **PeopleonthePark17** and the photo directory will appear. We will endeavor to keep this online version as up-to-date as possible. If you have been inadvertently omitted, would like to be included or would like a retake, please contact **Rev. Mike** or **Keli Hollis**.

Presbyterian Worship

The monthly service at Partridge Knoll are **on hold until further notice**. Like other United Helpers' facilities, Partridge Knoll is closed to visitors while virus cases are on the increase. Please keep all the residents and staff in your prayers.



Like Us On Facebook!

The Church On The Park has a **Facebook page** which changes regularly - <https://www.facebook.com/TheFirstPresbyterianChurchonthePark>

Church Website



Our Website is updated each month and is a great way to stay a part of the life of the church. If you have questions about, or contributions for the website please email our Webmaster Tom Dildine: tdildine@gmail.com

The Church's email address:

office@ChurchOnThePark.org

Reverend Mike's email address:

RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org

Sermons & Services

Written Sermons in PDF format are now available for viewing or downloading on Monday at www.ChurchOnThePark.org then click on "Written Sermons."

If you'd like to have a copy of the weekly sermon emailed or snail-mailed to you directly, please contact RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.Org.

A **video recording** of the Sunday worship service will be available for viewing the week following broadcast. Go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click "YouTube Channel."

Newsletter Deadline Is The 15th Of The Month

We are still sending out the monthly newsletter! Please submit articles (emailed preferably) to the church office, or directly to the News letter Editor, Linda Potter, at:

nautilus@twcny.rr.com

Hello, my name is...

Name Tag Sunday is on hold for now but you can still get to know your church friends.

Use the **church Photo Directory** and send a note to say **hello!**



Christmas Greetings



The 1st Presbyterian Church, on the Park
17 Park Street
Canton, NY 13617

Address Service Requested

The Church is charged for every returned Newsletter. If you have moved, or changed a seasonal address,
please notify the church office. Thank you.

Virtual Annual Meeting - February 7th
Stewardship Update
Christmas Giving Recap
Per Capita for 2021
Reflections on Hospice
Family News



The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Canton to reach out to all people
and welcome them in celebrating truly the joys, freedoms and responsibilities
that come with our faith in God, Christ's unconditional love for us,
and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our world.
Through this nurturing Christian Community
we will fully recognize the value of each believer,
humbly forgive ourselves and others, and lovingly embrace God's Grace.