



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

December 2020

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

While staying vigilant about rising COVID cases and following all safety protocols, we are continuing in-person worship 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 9 For Information About Virtual Worship & Fellowship.

The Farm Family Offering is on Sunday, December 6th. Donations can be brought to the church or mailed to the church office. See page 4 for more details.

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.

Silent Night, Holy Night

While normally a highlight of the liturgical year, given the recent COVID increases across our county, holding our traditional **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** seems unwise at this juncture.

The Session and Rev. Mike have considered a few options and have decided the best (that is, safest) course of action will be to offer a **pre-recorded Service of Lessons and Carols**. This will be a compilation video using visual and audio recording taken in the sanctuary, as well as other elements of worship from various members of the the congregations recorded over Zoom. These will be combined to produce (hopefully) a seamless video which we will post on **Christmas Eve at 4 p.m.** on the church's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-szhLf0OvQXy0QnyXykwZhw/>).



There will be **no** other in-person or live-stream service on **Christmas Eve**. Though certainly not ideal, we want folks to **stay safe** and be able enjoy this service in the comfort of their own homes.

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Family News

Prayers for **Barry Walch** on the death of his mother, June. Prayers, also, for his father Allan who survives her, his two siblings and the extended Walch family. Cards may be sent to Barry at: 46 Judson St., Canton, NY 13617.

Prayers for **Pastor Donna Doig** recovering from a cardiac procedure undertaken just before Thanksgiving.

Prayers for Josee Merlini, mother of **Patrick LaPierre**, confronting significant health issues; and for Patrick attempting to visit her in Montreal (Patrick is a Canadian Citizen so can enter the the county but COVID restrictions require a 14 day quarantine once in Canada prior to visiting).

Prayers for **Ginny Dittman**, and her family, as Ginny is now under care of Hospice. A former member of our church and dear lady, Ginny moved south some years ago to Williamsburg, Virginia. Though phone conversations are difficult for her, she would love to receive emails from old friends at the Church on the Park. dittva@gmail.com.

Prayers for Courtney Gardner, granddaughter of **Rich** and **Ellen Grayson**, and her husband Rick who have both tested positive for COVID (Courtney is a practicing physician and front-line worker). They are both symptomatic and parents to young children (5 year old Ellie and 16 month old Cameron). Many will remember Courtney (and her friend also named Courtney) who sang in our church choir for several years while a college student in the Potsdam.

Prayers for a local family, Jordan and McKenzie Kimble, on the sudden death of their 18 month old daughter Remi. Prayers also for MacKenzie's mother who is facing significant health issues. Very hard.

Thanks to **Mark & Ray Erickson** for the greening of the sanctuary.

Family News - cont.

Prayers for **Kimberly Dildine**, daughter of Tom and a child of our church, being treated for health issues; and for **Tom Dildine** still facing health concerns.

Prayers for Andrew Putman (friend of **Jean & Pat McGuire**) recovering from a stroke; **Christa Lyon** recovering from knee replacement surgery, and her husband **Marty** under care of Hospice. Cards may be sent to 43 Lincoln Street, Canton, NY 13617.

Prayers for **Bill Rodee** who continues to make strides with rehabilitation, and for **Marilyn** in support of him; Jodie Upton, sister of **Susan Akins**, who is being treated for cancer; and the family of Angus LaMora, co-worker of **Kelcy Larson-Reichhart**, who died from complications arising from COVID infection.

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

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

Great thanks to **Dave MacMaster** for replacing the light fixture in the outside sign on Park Street. We now have a nice, even, warm and welcoming glow to the sign to match our congregation!

Thanks to **Linda Potter** who prepared Thanksgiving dinner for a few in our congregation unable to join with others to celebrate the feast, **Pat Mace** who contributed a pumpkin pie to the effort, **Daphne** and **Gwen LaPierre** who drew fabulous Thanksgiving Cards which were include in the meal, and **Karen Bailey** who provided festive cards as well.

Virtual Video Christmas Card

With our indomitable spirit of Christmas undeterred, this year we will be undertaking an ambitious endeavor to produce a Virtual Video Christmas Card which will be **a gift from each of us to all of us**. We would ask all those who are able, to **record a short (up to 15 seconds) video clip** or still shot (“selfie”) of your family and/or yourself and email it to Rev. Mike at RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org.

Alternatively, Rev. Mike will be available to **record greetings over Zoom**, or physically **come to your house** to make a recording (folks can just stand in their doorway and he’ll keep his distance).

The **deadline** for submitting a contribution will be **Tuesday December 15th** (same as NL deadline). This will give us enough time to edit and produce so we can post it to the church’s YouTube channel on Sunday December 21st.

This is a big undertaking, requiring many moving and motivated parts, with the resulting delight commensurate with the effort made. **We’ve got a lot to do in order to pull this off, and not much time**. If you are reading these words, **we want YOU to join in the fun and festivities**. Let’s not let COVID hinder us from connecting with our faith family and sharing our Christmas cheer in abundance!

This is a wonderful opportunity for folks to get **creative**, especially the young among us (as well as the young at heart). Rather than having each one of us simply say, “Merry Christmas” over and over, we invite people to let their **imagination** run (a little) wild.

Continued

Virtual Christmas Card - cont.

Some possible suggestions include: sing or say a line or verse from your **favorite hymn** or **Christmas Carol**, showcase some **art work**, do a **dance**, get dressed up in **fancy clothes** or **costume** (favorite character from the manger scene), send a **special message** to someone you know who will be watching, tell of your **favorite Christmas tradition** or **food**, show off your **Christmas tree** or **holiday decorations**, record your greeting in an **exotic** or **unusual location**, let us see your **outdoor Christmas decorations**, tell a **joke**, share a **favorite memory** of Christmases past, read a **poem** or **lyric** from any fitting source, simply **act goofy** (some will excel at this), wear matching **Christmas pajamas**, show off your **Christmas cookies** or **gingerbread house**. Even at 15 seconds (or less) the possibilities are limitless.



Again, **We’ve got a lot to do in order to pull this off, and not much time** so please move this item to the top of your “To-Do” list. Don’t put it off, get ‘er done. Remember, Santa is watching!

Thanks to The Old & In With The New

We offer great thanks to **Phil Elvy** who has ended his service to our church in the role of **Treasurer**. Phil has done yeoman’s duty keeping our bills paid, streamlining reporting, and enabling on-line bill paying. We appreciate all the time and attention he has given to our congregation, and his willingness to continue to offer support as we transition to an outside firm run by **Mary McGreevy**, long-time book-keeper for the Presbytery (and someone with whom Rev. Mike has worked with for many years).

Church Attendance

	In-Person	Live Stream
November 1	39	25
November 8	22	25
November 15	23	21
November 22	12	23

Average In-Person Attendance: 24
 Average Live-Stream Attendance: 24

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
November 1	\$2,398.00	\$ 73.00
November 8	\$2,196.50	\$ 0.00
November 15	\$2,413.00	\$440.00
November 20	\$1,710.00	\$340.00
Total:	\$8,717.50	\$853.00

Thank you to those able to make pledges and gifts to the church.

Farm Family Offering

The Farm Family Offering day is **Sunday, December 6th**. This is an opportunity for you to share your mission dollars with **local farmers**. This mission program was started in our church in **2002** and continues to gather very generous contributions from our church families.

During the month of December, monetary gifts will be **delivered personally** to **local farm families** who produce milk, meat, fruit, vegetables, maple syrup, honey or nursery plants. Farmer income is often determined by weather over which they have no control. Recipients are producers who are trying faithfully to pay their bills. Our dollars not only help to pay bills, but additionally afford a Merry Christmas for some farm children.

You can bring your contribution to church on Sunday, December 6th. There will be a **Farm Family box** or you can place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the church office at 17 Park Street. **Thank you for taking advantage of this local mission opportunity.**

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
TBD - 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

Olio | 'ōlēō | a miscellaneous collection of things.

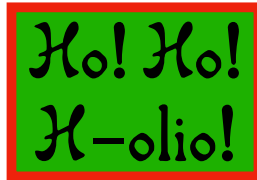
Merry Christmas all you good little girls and boys out there! 'Tis the season, and what a season it is shaping up to be. Though we are still beset by COVID, there is nothing that can prevent us from effusively sharing the Joy of Christmas and the Good News of the Christ Child born in a manger!

Advent Worship. The live-stream of the worship service continues each Sunday at 10 a.m., along with in-person worship (only if *you* are comfortable doing so) with a video recording of each week's sermon available for later viewing on our YouTube channel. On Christmas Eve, we will post a pre-recorded Service of Lessons & Carols in lieu of a live-stream or in-person alternative (let's be safe & stay healthy!).

Video Christmas Card. A true example of "the more the merrier," we are asking EVERYONE to get into the Christmas Spirit by submitting a video recording of Christmas mirth, frivolity and greetings to be compiled into a Virtual Video Christmas Card (again, to be posted on our YouTube channel). You can record and email these snippets yourself, or I will record it for you over ZOOM or by coming to your home. So much of Advent is just plain having fun with each other. Let's have this year be *just* as much fun (though different). So, banish your inner Ebenezer Scrooge! No "Bah-Humbugs" accepted. Get out your smart phone, log-in to Zoom or open your front door. Let's make this happen. Lights, camera, ACTION!

Stupendous Stewardship. Talk about Santa leaving something in one's stocking!

By all accounts this year's stewardship drive is knocking the socks off of us. We are having a *tremendous* out-pouring of support; best in *years*. Profound thanks to everyone who is helping to deliver this amazing gift to our church. We will be moving into the new year with health and vigor. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!



Visions Of Sugar Plums. Well, Christmas cookies and caramel corn, actually. In keeping with long-standing tradition, Beth Hayes and the youth of our church will be providing home-made Christmas cookies to the congregation, and caramel corn on Christmas Eve to the children of our church. These will be available for self-pickup in the foyer; cookies beginning Sunday December 13th and caramel corn on Christmas Eve (available until gone). Please stop by the church and pick up some for yourself (and your kids). Cookies will also be delivered to the homebound.

God Bless Us Everyone. Over the course of the next three weeks our church will distribute close to \$7,000 to families throughout the North Country. This amount represents a total of the contributions to the Farm Family Offering (being received this Sunday), Deacon's offerings, individual donations, our church's Mission Budget and, this year, grants received for COVID relief. Great thanks to all who have shared their blessings to help fund this yearly endeavor to bring a brighter Christmas to families on the farm, young children and those with acute needs; all of whom aren't looking for help, but will surely be gladdened by it.

Joy to the world, - Rev. Mike

"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him." - Matthew 2:2

DECEMBER Birthdays

- 1 Michelle Quinell Gayle
- 2 Lindsey Frazer
- 3 Jessica Brown, Giselle Kelly
- 8 Charles Alexander
- 9 Ellen Grayson, Brandon Bartley
- 10 Holly Miller, Christa Lyon
- 11 James Colton
- 12 Brandon Rodee; Georgia Vose
- 13 Kenneth Gibson,
Nicole Rae Janack,
Jessica Witherhead
- 14 David Witherhead
- 15 Evan Poole
- 18 Sarah Melville, Pat McGuire
- 19 Kristin McKie
- 20 Dale Grant
- 21 Dr. Mark Erickson,
Lance Erickson
- 23 Faye Bartley, Patti Mason
- 24 Ellen Janack
- 26 Rance Davis, David Gordon
- 29 Jane Cable
- 30 Janet Favro,
Kathryn McAuliffe O'Connell
- 31 Michael Witherhead

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

DECEMBER Anniversaries

- 22 Gerald & Beverly Findley
- 23 Kenneth & Mary Garwood
- 30 Tim & Gail Abplanalp

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.



December Lectionary Readings

Second Sunday of Advent - December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8



Third Sunday of Advent - December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve - December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Christmas Day - December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
John 1:1-14

December 27

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

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

Stewardship Report

Our stewardship has taken a **significant upward turn. Yes, upward!** We have added **two new pledge units**, meaning people who never contributed in any significant way in the past who have now committed to a specific amount for the year. I consider this to be a real increase in our pledge base. Additionally there are **seven units** who have been donating faithfully who formalized their pledge this year.

There are **10 pledge units** who have increased over last year and two which have decreased. At this point we have lost 2 units due to death or ill-health.

At this point, total committed amount is **\$100,489**. Last year when all pledges were in (February in this case) the total was 94,616.

Additionally, there are **12 units** who pledged and paid last year but who have not pledged yet for 2021. If each of those units pledges at the same rate as last year, it would add **\$15,660** to the total, yielding \$116,149 as the **anticipated** total pledged for 2021.

Going back to **actual** 2021 pledges which have been submitted, the general fund pledge is **\$93,462**, mission is **\$7,027**. The 2020 distribution was General Fund \$85,280 and Mission \$7,536. The **difference** between 2020 and 2021 General Fund commitment (money we can spend) is an **increase of \$7,182** for 2021. (All information is as of 11/27/20).

- **Barry Walch**, Financial Secretary

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

Christmas Cookies for YOU!

In the past, on the Sunday of the Children's Christmas program, the Youth Group baked a selection of **Christmas cookies** which the congregation could choose from and take home. It was the **Youth Group's gift** to the congregation.

We would like to continue this **tradition**, but the presentation will be a bit different. This year we will be baking and packaging Christmas cookies for the congregation's enjoyment. **Christmas cookies for you** (Yes! **You!**) will be in the foyer starting on **Sunday, December 13th**. Please stop and pick up a package or two... **Don't be Shy!!** If you are unable to stop, please let Beth Hayes know at (315) 244-7902 and someone will drop cookies off for you. **Merry Christmas!**

Many Thanks!

Bill and **Marilyn Rodee** are overwhelmed with the outpouring of **thoughtfulness** from our church family! During the time when Bill's left arm was broken, his air lift to Vermont University Medical Center, brain bleed, stroke and seizure, church folks provided **transportation** for Marilyn to Burlington and **Rev. Mike** drove there to boost Marilyn's spirits with a meal and tour away from the hospital.

When Bill returned home, we were blessed with needed **carpentry jobs**, **tasty food**, **visits** and **cards**. We have so much for which to be grateful. Thank you all for following us through this challenging rough spot in our lives.

- **Bill & Marilyn Rodee**

Words of Wisdom

Thou shalt not COVID thy neighbor's life:
Wear A Mask.

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!**

Help Wanted

We are currently seeking a successor to **Sarah Melville** to serve as the Clerk Session. Responsibilities are limited to taking and preparing minutes at 10 monthly meetings (last Monday of the month except in July and December, no longer than 1 hour), our annual meeting in February, and once-a-year on-line denominational statistical reporting. The Clerk need not be an Elder or member to serve. This is a great way to provide a much needed service to our church with **limited responsibilities** and no “mission creep” (plus, the Session meetings are a lot of fun). Please see **Rev. Mike** if interested or have questions.

A Christmas List

by **Marilyn Morgan Helleberg**

“Ask,” He said, “and you shall receive.”
When you’re nine years old,
your heart can believe.

“Give me a doll that drinks and sleeps.”
I asked, but oh, I didn’t receive.

“Ask,” He said, “and you shall receive.”
I was young and in love,
it was Christmas Eve.

“Give me the heart of that special boy.”
I asked, but oh, I didn’t receive.

“Ask,” He said, “and you shall receive.”
Money was scarce but I tried to believe.
“Give us enough for the gifts on your list.”
I asked, but oh, I didn’t receive.

“Ask,” He said, “and you shall receive.”
Sorting my values, I began to perceive.
“Give me Your Son.

Let Him shine through me.”
I asked, and lo, I began to receive...

More than I’d ever dared to believe -
Treasures unmeasured,
blessings undreamed,

All I’d asked or hoped to achieve.
“Ask,” He said, “and you shall receive.”

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”).

Gratitude

During November, we asked the congregation to share what they are grateful for. It's a great reminder that even in the most difficult of times, there is always goodness to be found.

I am grateful to have such caring church members that helped me through recovery of my knee surgery, providing my family with food, visits and cards. - **Chris Lyon**

I am grateful and very much appreciate people understanding my reluctance to be out in public, out in grocery stores, and out in groups considering my present health issues during the time of increasing Covid-19 infections. - **Tom Dildine**

I am grateful for so many little things in this year of chaos...most special is being able to see and care for our grandchild Porter, and watch him grow up. - **Nancey Brackett**

I am SO GRATEFUL for all the support Phil and I have received in our venture of buying our own practice. Thank you for all the well wishes from our church family!! - **Keli Hollis**

Jim and I are grateful for each other, for our family, and for our friends. - **Lynne Pickens & Jim Robertson**

We are most grateful for waking up each day in a warm home with plenty of food and in good health. We are also thankful for a loving family and many friends and knowing that we have them as well as our church family as our support group. - **Al & Rita Ostrander**

I am so very thankful constantly for blessings I daily see happening in my life - too numerous to mention specifically. - **Melba Reinke**

More so than ever, we are thankful for each other, for our family and friends, for good health, for having enough to eat and not having to stand in food lines when so many others have to, for living in an area that hasn't suffered the natural disasters that some areas have; the list could go on and on. We're also so very thankful for technology that allows us to stay connected not only with family and friends living out of the area, but also with those living near by who we're not able to see because of this pandemic. - **Pat & Jean McGuire**

We are grateful for our health and our family and friends. We are also thankful that there may soon be a vaccine that can help us against this darn virus and bless all our health workers! - **Vern & Arvilla Aldous**

Thankful for all my blessing and especially for the people who love me and look out for me. - **Wanda Renick**

We're thankful for our family. - **Karen & Kevin Bailey**

Thankful for our faith, each other, our church family and to be living in Canton. - **Bill & Karen Parker**

There are many among us who are at risk financially and whose future is uncertain. I am grateful that Rich and I think along the same lines and are ready and willing to help. Perhaps it isn't always the amount we would LIKE to be able to give; I am happy we are in a position to give at all. - **Ellen Grayson**

Both Jerry and I are grateful for all the people who worked to facilitate the live streaming of our church services. - **Bev & Jerry Findley**



Continued on Pg. 11

Gratitude - cont.

I'm very grateful, especially at this tumultuous time of political upheaval and danger to our very health and existence, for our church. In particular, the leadership of our family head, and those folks who have come to the fore in guiding us safely and confidently through some of the toughest and scariest times we've ever seen.

- **Rich Grayson**

Hi Linda, I am grateful for YOU! On 11/13/19 you held a Circle meeting focused on Gratitude. You gave us each a small blank journal and every night since then I have written in my gratitude journal. It has been a year and I have filled that journal and started another small notebook. What a wonderful blessing for me especially during these trying times. Thank you Linda. Blessings - **Georgia Vose**

Making A Difference

The **Food For Fellowship** event held at the church in October saw **22 families** with young children receive a meal of soup, bread, cheese and dessert. Along with that, each family received cards to send to friends in the church, many who are homebound or more affected by the social isolation. Those who received cards expressed **deep gratitude** for the **sentiments** shared, **connections** made and **artwork** created. **Together we are the church.**

Your Church Can Help

Along with the latest wave of cases of the virus, there is a new wave of furloughs related to the pandemic and people experiencing **financial difficulties** for the first time. Thanks to the **generosity** of our congregation and local foundations, the church has funds to assist people. If you are in need of help or know someone who is, **contact Rev. Mike, 716-857-0111.**

Saving Grace

Today we lift our hearts in praise
For blessings that are ours,
For all the wealth of harvest days,
For sunshine and for showers;
For all the fruit upon the tree,
For fields of ripened grain,
For all the beauty that we see,
In mountain, stream and plain.

We thank you for the simple things
That make our lives more bright,
The bird upon the branch that sings,
The quiet of the night;
For hearts grown dear,
For friends we love,
For hope and faith and cheer,
For sun and moon and clouds above,
For each season of the year.

We thank you for your holy word,
From which we learn your will,
The silent voice which can be heard,
Whenever we are still.
We thank you for this meal this day,
For providing daily bread,
And may your manna guide our way,
And by your word be fed.

- Emilie C. Conklin



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.



Pre-Recorded Lessons & Carols - Dec. 24th
Join In Making a Virtual Christmas Card
Christmas Cookies & Caramel Corn for All
Farm Family Offering - Dec. 6th
Stewardship Report
Family News



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

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