



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

January 2022

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

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

Worship With Us

As we watch the rise and fall of the daily COVID rate in the county, we will be continuing **in-person worship** with **masks required** and **no singing**. Though this is not the ideal, it is still wonderful to see each other and worship together in with folks in the pews and many joining on the live-stream sharing good wishes, laughs and prayers. We are grateful that our church continues to be strong in our support for one another and our community during these challenging times. Together, we hope with everyone for a happy and healthy new year with a return to “normal” soon.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, **February 6th** following worship. It would be extremely helpful if folks could get their annual reports to the church office by Sunday, **January 16th** so that they may be compiled and sent out to folks ahead of the meeting.



- Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro**..... Pastor
 - Donna Doig, CLP**..... Associate Pastor
 - Karen Bailey**..... Office Coordinator
 - Jarrett Larson**..... Organist and Choir Director
 - Bob Duda**..... Assistant Choir Director
 - Michael Walters**..... Handbell Choir Director
 - Cameron Boswell**..... Stream Master
 - TBD**..... Director of Christian Education
 - Mary McGreevy**..... Treasurer
 - Patience Boswell**..... Sexton
 - Linda Potter**..... Newsletter Editor
 - Emily & Kate Ewy**..... Nursery Care Providers
- NEW Church Office Hrs: 1 - 4 p.m., Tues. & Thur.**

Nursery Care Resumes

On **Sunday, January 9th** we will **resume offering Nursery Care** to Kindergarten and pre-school aged children during the Sunday worship service (though they are certainly always welcome at worship service). **Emily** and **Kate Ewy** (each of whom have completed the Red Cross Baby-Sitter course) have graciously agreed to staff the nursery each week (though they would surely appreciate support now and again).

We will be doing a **Deep Clean of the Nursery** following worship on **Sunday, January 2nd** and sure could use all hands on deck for that. Given the recent spike in COVID infections, we are still in a bit of limbo regarding Church School for the older kids, but continue to pursue a Director. If you know of anyone who might interested in the position, or in helping with Church School, contact Rev. Mike.

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

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Family News

Prayers for **Patience Boswell**, and her children **Cameron** and **Aubrey**, on the death of their husband and father in mid-December from complications due to COVID. The family wishes to thank the congregation for their gracious support in this difficult time. 14 Park Street Apt. 3, Canton, NY 13617.

Prayers for **Colleen Grant** being facing difficult and serious health challenges as well as recovering from a fall at work; and her husband, **Dale**, in support of her. 55 Bird St., Canton, NY 13617.

Prayers for **Rob Ewy**, and his family, on the death of his father, Arnold Ewy, shortly after Christmas. Mr. Ewy was 97 years old, and we celebrate his full and wonderful life. 521 CR 59, Potsdam, NY 13676.

Prayers for **Joe** and **Karen McAuliffe** recovering from COVID; along with an increasing number of folks who have been infected, being made to quarantine or otherwise affected.

Prayers for **Jorge Nsundidi** in his job search and in finding an employer will sponsor his work visa application. 49 Johnson Park Apt. 5, Buffalo NY 14201.

Prayers for **Christa Lyon** still recovering from surgery and her husband **Marty** under the care of Hospice. 43 Lincoln Street, Canton, NY 13617.

Continued prayers for **Galen Pletcher** who completed his final treatment on Monday December 27th (32 Judson Street, Canton NY 13617), for **Jean McGuire** as she regains strength from treatment (604 Hall Road, Lisbon NY 13658) and for **Betsy Robinson** healing from corneal surgery.

Prayers of comfort and healing for **Mary** and **Elliot Rodee**, and the Basford/Rodee families. Let us continue to hold this family in love; 8 Meade Rd., Canton, NY 13617.

Family News - cont.

Continued prayers for **Gordy** and **Michelle Theisen** as they grieve the death of their daughter, Emily; 905 Farnes Road, Canton, NY 13617; and for **Jim Durham** whose recovery from knee replacement surgery is not going as quickly as hoped; and partner **Patti** in support of him (P.O. Box 15, Colton NY 13625).

Continued prayers for **Sean Boutin** and **Kristine McKie** continuing to face medical challenges, and **Bill** and **Karen Parker** also confronting health challenges.

Prayers for the **children** and **young families** of our church (and community) as they continue to contend with learn, live and grow against the backdrop of COVID.

Prayers for **Ellen Grayson's** sister Connie and her daughter Pam; Glen Erickson recovering from surgery (brother of **Ray & Mark**); Raelene McLain (**Vicki's** mother) facing health challenges; and Evan Richards in Colorado (husband of **Heather Cole**) who fell off a roof and broke his wrist and ankle.

Prayers Carl Janack (son of **Ellen**) being treated for colon cancer, and Judy Norton (wife of Brian and daughter-in-law of **Shirley**) being treated for breast cancer.

Prayers for the family of Addie Greene, an 8th grader in Potsdam and a classmate of **Emily** and **Kate Ewy**, who died from cancer just before Christmas; heartbreaking. Prayers also for Emily and Kate as they join all of us on the journey to understand and accept such tragic loss.



Christmas Giving Recap

Great thanks to the entire congregation, and friends both near and far, 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 **\$7,400** of Christmas cheer to **45 families** here in Canton and the surrounding area which includes **\$1,500** for Farm Families. Since 2002 we have provided over \$122,000 to hundreds of families at Christmas. **We are an amazing congregation with glad and generous hearts!**

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Tuesday, **January 25th** with a discussion of ***Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*** by Katherine May. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Contact Linda Potter at nautilus@twcny.rr.com or 315-229-8886 for more information.



Upcoming books are:

February 22 - ***Magic Hour*** by Kristin Hannah; discussion led by Georgia Vose.

March 22 - ***The Sentence*** by Louise Erdrich; discussion led by Vicki McLain.

April 26 - ***The Lager Queen of Minnesota*** by J. Ryan Stradal; discussion led by Nancey Brackett.

May 24 - ***A Beautiful Country*** by Qian Julie Wang; discussion led by Pat Mace



Sweet Thanks!

Huge thanks to the Magi in our midst, **Beth Hayes, Julia Basford, Sandy and Sasha Trimm**, who cooked up a HUGE batch of caramel corn and placed them in individual bags for Rev. Mike to deliver to all the kids of the church on Christmas Eve. A wonderful tradition of our church made possible by their gracious efforts.

Quilter Wanted

Karen Bailey is looking for someone with quilting skills who would be interested in finishing a **Log Cabin quilt** her mother started before she passed away. All the materials and instructions are accounted for. She is willing to pay for time and labor. For more information, contact the Church Office or Karen @ (315) 229-8574.

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 12th** at **7 p.m.** in the **Conference Room** at the church with topic to be announced. All women of the church are welcome to join in for conversation and connection. If you are able to attend, contact **Linda Potter** at nautilus@twcny.rr.com.

Sssh! It's A Surprise!

On Wednesday, **January 26th** our own **Bob Fraser** will celebrate his 90th Birthday! The family has asked the congregation to provide a **"Card Shower"** for him in the days leading up to the BIG Event. Bob is a wonderful and wise gentleman who, we are sure, would truly appreciate a card from any who wish to send one. He lives with his wife, Betty, at 49 Bird Street, Canton, NY 13617. We are sending Bob and Betty their own newsletter this month, with this article taken out, so as to keep the endeavor a surprise.

Church Attendance

	In-Person	Live Stream
December 5	36	40
December 12	20	28
December 19	50	41
December 26	16	26

Average In-Person Attendance: 31
Average Live-Stream Attendance: 34

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
December 5	\$ 4,524.94	\$1,728.00
December 13	\$ 3,548.05	\$1,360.00
December 19	\$ 2,637.00	\$ 250.00
December 28	\$ 2,310.00	\$ 0.00
Total:	\$13,020.99	\$3,338.00

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!**



Communion Cups

Self-contained **communion cups** are available for you to pick up anytime in the **foyer**.

Vaccine Sites

Booster shots for the COVID vaccine are now recommended for all over age 18 and vaccines are available to all those over the age of five. St. Lawrence County Public Health holds [vaccine clinics](#) at several locations and local pharmacies also offer the vaccine. If you need help signing up or help with a ride, please contact **Rev. Mike**.

Officers & Committees

Elders On Session

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

Rich Grayson	Patrick LaPierre	Martha Cole
Pat Mace	Barry Walch	Ellen MacMaster
Beth Hayes	Gordy Theisen	Pat McGuire
Michelle Quinelle-Gayle		Bill Parker
Janet Stitt - Clerk Of Session		

Board of Deacons

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

Christa Lyon	Georgia Vose	Marilyn Coir
Nancy Brown	Bob Duda	Michelle Theisen
Jane Cable	Stacie Olney-LaPierre	
Jean McGuire	Susan Akins	Ellen Grayson
Secretary		Moderator
Ray Erickson, Treasurer <i>Ex Officio</i>		

Committees

Chairs

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

Facilities Barry Walch & 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 Pat Mace, Ellen Grayson, Martha Cole, Rob Ewy & Barb Brown
Responsible for filling Session, Deacons & Offices.

Education Beth Hayes
Responsible for growth, nurturing & learning.

Worship Michelle Quinelle-Gayle
With pastor, responsible for worship.

Communion Pat Mace & Vicki McLain

Stewardship Rich Grayson
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 Secretary Barry Walch

C&C Program JJ Jockel & Sean Boutin

Personnel Pat Mace, Gordy Theisen & Michelle Quinelle-Gayle

The Pastor's Report

Greetings! I trust everyone enjoyed a fine and festive Christmas with family and feasting. Hopefully Santa was able to bring you just the thing for which you were hoping.

A great benefit of becoming "more mature" is the ability to better insure you receive what *you* want for Christmas, rather than leaving the matter wholly to Santa's elves; though, certainly, some of the surprise gets diminished in process.

This year I ensured I received *exactly* what I wanted for Christmas: come the morning of Christmas Eve, I hopped into my very own sleigh and drove all over the county delivering caramel corn to the kids of our church (and few "big kids" to boot). Special thanks to Beth Hayes, Julia Basford, Sandy Trimm and Sasha Trimm for making the caramel corn! It simply wouldn't be Christmas on the Park without kids and caramel corn, and if the kids couldn't come to church this year because of COVID, "church" would come to them.

What a delight to see the kids stand at the door (many still in their pajamas) to see their excitement and to appreciate how much they all have grown. It so gladdened my heart, as I knew it would. Though certainly a shorter jaunt than the *real* Santa makes, it took *this* Santa 4 1/2 hours to deliver over 50 bags to the same number of kids. I was amazed at just how many kids we have in our congregation, and how far flung is this congregation. Though many live right here in the village of Canton (Farmer Street, in particular, is becoming Presbyterian Central) an equal number are scattered throughout the surrounding towns of Rensselaer Falls, Norwood and Potsdam. Impressive!

After all the bags were delivered to the good little girls and boys of the congregation (and they are ALL good) I went to the church to put the remaining bags in the foyer before heading home to my own kids and the Christmas Eve festivities that awaited me there. While there, I checked mail and messages and listened to one on the machine from an obviously teary mom hoping for help to make Christmas possible for her 3 young children. They had taken shelter through Renewal House without much more than the clothes on their back, and with no money and no transportation.

At this point it was almost 4 p.m. and, frankly, I was ready to be done for the day. But, come on, what choice was there? It's Christmas and we're a church. So I made the call. She made arrangements for someone to watch the kids (ages 7, 8 and 9) and I picked up the woman, drove her to Walmart, gave her some money I had tucked away from our Christmas Giving Program for last minute needs (which seem to happen every year, so I've learned to be prepared) waited while she shopped, and drove her back to where she was staying. Suffice to say she was *tremendously* grateful. It was a Christmas Miracle, all thanks to you in our congregation.

Later that evening, as I sat with feet up in my recliner amid the warmth and joy of my own family and our home, I couldn't help but marvel at the blessing that is our church. From the many kids in our midst, to the care we offer to the community and those in need, to the life you provide to our family; how humbling. Perhaps, more than anything, feeling a sense of humility for all God has done, and is doing, for this world is what Christmas is really all about.

All is calm, all is bright, - Rev. Mike

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined." - Isaiah 9:2

JANUARY Birthdays

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

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 4 Rance & Kelly Davis,
Jack & Margaret Wylie
- 20 Gerard & Michaela Powers

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

Gift of Friendship



Corinne and **Bob Duda** invited **Betsy Robinson**, and the "**Erickson Boys**" (**Mark** and **Ray**) over for share Christmas Dinner.

Share a photo with your church family! Even if we haven't seen you in a while, we'd love to **see** what you are doing. Send it to **Linda Potter** at nautilus@twcnny.rr.com.

Parents! Grandparents!

Shout out and **share** the word about your kids and grandkids with your church family! 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

Also, let **Rev. Mike** know when the kids have a game, recital, performance or award ceremony. He would love to be part of your celebration and see the kids of the church do their thing! Text him at (716) 857-0111 or email him at RevMike@churchonthepark.org.

Rejoice!



Michelle and **Gordy Theisen** had a festive tree this year as they celebrated their first Christmas in their new house.

January Lectionary Readings

January 2

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 9

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 23

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 30

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

2022 Per Capita

Our **notice of apportionment** from the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 2022 amounts to **\$31 per active member** 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 2022 budget.

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 worshipping 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 continue to be emailed, or snail-mailed, on *Tuesday* 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.

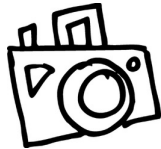
If you want to learn more about the prayer chain, call **Rev. Mike** at 386-2570 or **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.



Photo Directory

Due to recent "shenanigans," we have made a decision to no longer offer our Photo Directory online through the website. If you would like a copy (print or digital), please contact Rev. Mike or the church office and we'd be happy to send one with you.

We endeavor to keep the photo directory as up-to-date as possible. If you find that you have been inadvertently omitted, would like to be included or would like a retake, please contact **Rev. Mike** or **Keli Hollis**. Updates easily done.



Presbyterian Worship

We take a winter break for our services at Partridge Knoll which means no service in January. We will resume in February. Please continue to keep our friends there in your prayers and, perhaps, stop by for a visit (with a mask) or pick up the phone to say hi. Wanda, Shirley, Janet, Jeanne and Donna would love to hear from you.



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 Rev. Mike or the church office.

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.

To view recordings of previous worship services, please subscribe to our [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!**

Saving Grace

Oh Lord, I thank you for the privilege and gift of living
in a world filled with beauty and excitement and variety.

I thank you for the gift of loving and being loved,
for the friendliness and understanding and beauty
of animals on the farm and in the forest and marshes,
for the green of the trees, the sound of a waterfall,
the darting beauty of trout in the brook.

I thank you for the delights of music and children,
of others' thoughts and conversation and their books to read
by the fireplace or in bed with rain falling on the roof
or snow blowing past outside the window.

I thank you for the powers of the mind which find the universe
an endless and inexhaustible source of interest and fascination,
for the understanding of so many elements that make life precious.

I thank you for all the senses you have bestowed upon me
and for the delights which they bring me.

I thank you for my body itself
which is so wonderful and delightful a mechanism.

I thank you for making eating so enjoyable and food so delectable.

I thank you for the smile on the face of a woman,
for the touch of a friend's hand, for the laughter of a child,
the wagging tail of a dog and the touch of his cold nose on my face.

I thank you for all of these things and many more, and above all...

I thank you, God, for life itself,
without which the universe would have no meaning.

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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.



Worship With Us!
Evening Book Group
Christmas Giving Recap
Family News
Nursery Care Resumes



Deep Clean of Nursery - Jan. 2nd
Annual Meeting - Feb. 6th

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.