



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

December 2021

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

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

COVID Christmas

Owing to the limits which continue to be exacted upon us, and the current infection rates in the county, the Session has decided to **not offer** our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service this year. However, we will be having a special service of **Lessons and Carols** the Sunday before Christmas, **December 19th**, which will feature a wide variety of instruments (**kazoos included**) played by members of the congregation (kids and adults) in the lieu of the Carols we would normally sing. It promises to be **great fun!**

Hopefully, next year will see a return to our time honored tradition of the evening service, Church School Christmas program and Advent Potluck meal. **Stay safe and have a Merry Christmas.**



Worship With Us

Please continue to join us for worship in the way best suited for you: **in-person** with **masks** or via the **livestream**. We are always happy to see you!

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

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

Change in Office Hours

Given changes owing to COVID (monthly Newsletter emailed rather than hardcopy snail mailed, for instance), to better accommodate our excellent secretary **Karen Bailey** and bring the hourly pay rate up to snuff, and to save a little money in the church budget for the coming year, the office hours at the church are being reduced to: **Tuesday and Thursday 1 to 4 p.m.**

Zoom Fellowship

Since the summer the Zoom Fellowship time has waned a bit, but it is a very **important** aspect of life in our congregation for those who cannot attend. In effort to reinvigorate, a **reminder** that we begin at **11:30 a.m.** so if you get on early please linger until that time to give others a chance to join. Rev. Mike tries to be on at that time unless it is necessary to be meeting with someone after worship. Hope to **"Zee"** you there! (see page 7 for more info.)

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 **Dave MacMaster** and his family on the death of his brother Ron due to complications from a medical procedure. P.O. Box 402, Hannawa Falls, NY 13647.

With great sadness we share news of the death of **Charlie Alexander**, the oldest and longest serving member of our congregation, a WWII Veteran and an absolutely terrific guy. A **memorial service** to honor and celebrate Charlie will be held on **Friday, December 3rd** at **11 a.m.** in the church sanctuary. Prayers for his wife **Margaret** and their family during this time. Cards would surely be appreciated, 3422 SH 68, Canton NY 13617.

Prayers for **Janet Stitt** who suffered a "small" heart attack. She is home and doing well. 30 Sullivan Dr. Apt. 127, Canton NY 13617.

Prayers for **Nicholas Boswell**, husband of **Patience** and father to **Cameron** and **Aubrey**, who is hospitalized and extremely ill with COVID. Though vaccinated, Nicholas is immunocompromised and has been seriously impacted; 14 Park Street Apt. 3, Canton, NY 13617.

Prayers for **Karen Parker** was recently diagnosed with a form of Parkinson's Disease. 17 State Street, Canton NY 13617. Husband **Bill**.

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.

Continued prayers **Galen Pletcher** who had a small set back in his treatment. 32 Judson Street, Canton NY 13617. Spouse Helen McLean; and for **Jean McGuire** as she regains strength from treatment and is now cancer free! 604 Hall Road, Lisbon NY 13658. Spouse **Pat**.

Family News - cont.

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.

Continued prayers for **Gordy** and **Michelle Theisen** as they grieve the death of their daughter, Emily; 905 Farnes Road, Canton, NY 13617; for **Sean Boutin** and **Kristin McKie** facing medical challenges; and prayers for **Patti Cryderman** facing health issues; 8349 CR 27, Lisbon, NY 13658.

Prayers for **Ellen Grayson's** sister Connie and her daughter Pam; Glen Erickson recovering from surgery (brother of **Ray & Mark**); **Susan Akins** facing health challenges; Raelene McLain (**Vicki's** mother) facing health challenges; Evan Richards in Colorado (husband of **Heather Cole**) who fell of a roof and broke his wrist and ankle; Lauren and Scott Smalling facing challenges in pregnancy (twin girls), and on for the death of Lauren's mother (Scott is the father of **Sophia Smalling**); Chad, nephew of **Beth Hayes** and father of young children facing dire health issues; and prayers for **Anna Eller**.

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

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.

Jim Durham sent a card of thanks to the congregation for the prayers, notes and get well wishes. Please keep Jim (and **Patti**) in prayer as he continues to rehab from knee replacement surgery.



Farm Family Offering - Dec. 5

This is an opportunity for you to share your **mission dollars** with **local farmers**. The mission program was started in our church in **2002**. It was Christmas Eve day when **Rev. Mike** called me and together we delivered a **gift** of money to a **widow** who had recently lost her husband in a farm accident and had decided to continue operating the farm with sporadic help from her father-in-law. Like many small farmers, she received less for her milk than the cost to produce it. She was **struggling** to feed her family and pay farm bills.

In our current economy, producers of **our food** are facing larger production costs than they have for many past years. During the month of December, **monetary gifts** will be delivered personally to **local farm families** producing meat, milk, fruit, vegetables, syrup, honey or nursery plants. Together our dollars will provide a Merrier Christmas for farm children and their parents.



This year, because of COVID, your mission dollars will be gathered a bit differently. Bring your **donation** to church on **December 5th** where there will be envelopes addressed to "**Farm Family Offering**" in which you can insert your money. For church families who receive a snail-mailed newsletter, an envelope will be attached. You can also **mail** your donation (check only-no cash) to: Canton Presbyterian Church, 17 Park Street. Be sure to note for **Farm Families** on check.

Thank you for making a difference!

Marilyn Rodee

Farm Family Offering Coordinator

Special Thanks

Great appreciation to **Jeanne Lewis** who again this year has made a major contribution to our annual **Farm Family Offering**. Jeanne is the daughter of Elsie Dana, a former beloved member of our church until her death some years ago. Even though Jeanne lives in New Hampshire, she still has a place in her heart for the **farmers** of St. Lawrence County, and our **church**, and has joyfully support our congregation's outreach to area farmers; especially at Christmas.

As our "lead donor" Jeanne demonstrates the **power of connection** to span the miles, the years and distance that can sometimes separate us as neighbors. The Session, and pastor and congregation of our church is **extremely grateful** for **Jeanne's leadership** and example of **compassion** and **generosity**.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to our own (Dr.) **J.J. Jockel** on the publication of his most recent book, Canada in NATO, 1949-2019, which he co-authored with Joel J. Sokolsky, the former head of the Royal Military College of Canada; "The first account of Canada's military and diplomatic participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization over its first seventy years sheds light on how NATO profoundly shaped Canadian defense and foreign policy, while also serving vital Canadian security and diplomatic interests." <https://www.amazon.ca/Canada-NATO-1949-2019-Joseph-Jockel/dp/0228008417> (stocking stuffer?!?). J.J. is professor of Canadian Studies at St. Lawrence University. **Well done J.J.!**



Church Attendance

	In-Person	Live Stream
November 7	30	24
November 14	24	31
November 21	30	37
November 28	33	39

Average In-Person Attendance: 29

Average Live-Stream Attendance: 33

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
November 7	\$ 4,653.00	\$362.00
November 18	\$ 6,227.29	\$612.00
November 21	\$ 1,035.00	\$ 10.00
November 24	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 0.00
November 28	\$ 3,000.00	\$475.00
Total:	\$20,065.29	\$1,459.00

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

Ho-Ho-Howdy folks! In this Season of Advent, please know that I'm wishing all of you the blessing of Good Cheer this Christmas.

I'm not sure if it is my age, my profession (and/or duration within), the seemingly relentless grind of COVID, the overwhelming and saccharin commercialization of the season, or the creeping darkness and cloudy days at this time of year (probably a combination of all of the above) but I must confess to a certain lack of cheer regarding the Christmas towards which we are once again relentlessly racing.

Aware of the slippery slope upon which I find myself, I decided it is incumbent upon me, both as a person and pastor, to take a breath, create some space and give myself over to remembering the BIG picture, and look beyond my own very small part in it.

I remember Christmas in my childhood; the magic, the mystery, and the meaning.

I remember Christmas morning at my grandmother's house; seeing her filled with joy to be surrounded by family. I remember the grapefruit halves she set out on the breakfast table; with sections pre-cut, sugar sprinkled upon them and a maraschino cherry on top (I've yet to find a better symbol for the sweet and sour of life, and the care required to savor both together).

I remember our own children, clad in footie pajamas coming down the stairs on Christmas morning, the delight in their

eyes and the way they made Linda and I glow in our hearts.

I remember the two decades of Christmases spent here among this congregation: the Church School pageants, the pot-lucks, the caramel corn, and the many wonderful people who brought a belonging and fullness of life to our family. I remember singing "Silent Night" by candlelight on Christmas Eve in the sanctuary and, afterward, wishing each family "Merry Christmas" as they departed to celebrate their own traditions and loving relationships.

I remember delivering gifts and cards at Christmas time to hundreds of families over the decades on behalf of our church as a light in the darkness and as a way to say, "We remember *you*."

Looking back on my life at Christmas, I remember the beauty rather than the bustle. I remember the joy rather than the cloy. I remember the love rather than the labor.

This Christmas, as I look ahead to my life and whatever days are to be given to me as gifts, I remember that come what may, my hope resides in a world being overcome by grace. I remember there is a star to guide, a place in which to find shelter and rest, and the cheer of goodness to sustain me for the journey home.

This year at Christmas, may each of you remember that all is calm and all is bright, and that glories yet stream from heaven afar to all of us here on earth,

Merry Christmas, Rev. Mike

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- John 16:33

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." - Luke 2:10-11

DECEMBER Birthdays

- 1 Michelle Quinell-Gayle
- 2 Lindsey Frazer
- 3 Jessica Brown, Giselle Kelly
- 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 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

A Green Christmas

Thanks to all who helped with the "Greening Of The Church" following worship on Sunday November 21st: **Emily, Kate & Rob Ewy, Mark & Ray Erickson, Linda Potter, Sean Boutin & Kristin McKie, Sarah & Duncan Melville, Pat Mace, Martha Cole, Faye Bartley, and Mary Kelly** with her "grands" **Anastasia, Giselle & Lorien**. The church and sanctuary look beautiful and festive!

Resources For The Future

Great thanks to the Resources Committee (**Janet Stitt, Jim Franklin, Mark Brackett** and Chair **Martha Cole**) for *many* months of hard work to reimagine our church's long-term financial goals, research and explore avenues to better invest our church's restricted funds, and develop a Financial Investment Policy for our church.

At the November meeting, the Session adopted the policy and approved their recommendation to place funds under the management of **Tiffany Soricelli** and [Virtuoso Asset Management](#). We are excited for a **brighter fiscal future**, and thank Janet, Jim, Mark and Martha for their **hard work** and **commitment**. Thanks also to Tiffany for guiding us through the process of developing the **Financial Investment Policy** which is included in the emailing of this newsletter. If you would like a hardcopy of the policy mailed to you, please contact Karen in the church office.

Church School & Nursery

At the request of **parents** in our congregation, and now that vaccines are being offered to all but the youngest among us, the Session has decided to make the effort to **resume Church School** and provide **Nursery** care with the start of the new year.

Emily and **Kate Ewy** have graciously offered to staff the **nursery**, and we will be running a classified ad looking to hire a **paid, part-time** Church School director. Please be praying that God send us the right person to lead this very important aspect of life together as a church, as we endeavor to nurture the very many children in our congregation. **If anyone might interested in the position, or in helping with Church School**, please contact Rev. Mike.

December Lectionary Readings

Second Sunday of Advent - December 5

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6



Third Sunday of Advent - December 12

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 19

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Christmas Eve - December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96:1-13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Christmas Day - December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98:1-9
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14

December 26

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Giving Program

We will once again be endeavoring to provide a **brighter Christmas** to **kids** and **families** in the area who could use a little help (but aren't necessarily asking for it). If you are aware of any individuals or families in the area who are in need, please **contact Rev. Mike**. Also, if you are looking to help make a very real and immediate difference to your neighbors at Christmas, please consider making a **donation** to the church specifically for this purpose.



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>. Once 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.

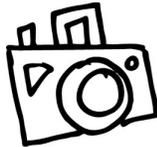
If you want to learn more about the prayer chain, call **Rev. Mike** at 386-2570 or **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.



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

The next monthly service at Partridge Knoll will be on **Wednesday, December 8th at 11 a.m.** However, due to COVID it will be for residents only. 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!**

Stewardship Update

The **stewardship campaign** is nearing its end. As of November 30, the total pledged is **\$108,787**. That total is divided between the **general fund** which is **\$100,743** and the **Mission fund** which is **\$8,044**. There are still some pledge units who usually pledge consistently but have not committed as of this date so it is possible that the final totals might be higher. During more benign times we often assumed that people will pledge at a similar level and base the general budget on that projection. During these difficult times, however, I dare not project a likely total based on past contributions. If you do indeed **intend to pledge** for **2022**, please let me know so we can more **precisely craft** the **budget** for 2022. An especially positive observation is that **16 units** have increased their pledge. I interpret that to mean that what is happening at the Church on the Park is meeting the needs of our congregation.

The final total of pledges for **2021** was **\$109,429 total**, \$101,022 for general and \$8,407 for Mission. That means we are just about **\$700 short** of last year's total which is encouraging. The discouraging portion is the **swift increase** in **costs** of all sorts that affect our church such as fuel, insurance, printing, and maintenance. So staying the same as last year actually indicates that we are losing ground. Hopefully those who have yet to pledge can make up that difference.

I continue to be **amazed** and **uplifted** to know how **generous** our church members are. The Mission budget is a healthy percentage of the total donations which means we are indeed concerned with the community at large, not just our own people and buildings. Beyond the official Mission giving we also donate thousands to special efforts such as Farm Families, Pastor's

Continued

Stewardship Update - cont.

Discretionary Fund, and One Great Hour of Sharing. Oh yes, we are a congregation that is doing a lot of **great work** in God's community, and I believe we should feel very good about that.

If you want to let me know what your pledge will be, you can send an email to Barryrhonda@outlook.com or call me at (315) 854-2871.

Barry Walch
Financial Secretary

Mission Treasurer Needed

After many years of service as our Mission Treasurer, **Diane Ladison**, will be retiring at the end of the year and we will need to fill her shoes. If you've got an eye for numbers and would like offer a small amount of time to the church in this capacity (the job is very limited in scope) we'd be thrilled to welcome new leadership into this role. If interested, please speak to Rev. Mike.

Heartfelt Thanks

Val White (Children's Librarian at Canton Free Library and friend of our church) and her father, Joe, send thanks *"for feeding us in body and spirit. The food has been absolutely delicious and we feels so cared for by your generosity."* Through the Food for Fellowship event and Ham Dinner Fundraiser we provided meals to Val and Joe as he recovers from surgery and treatment.

Address Updates

Please note these new addresses:
Melba Reinke, 2219 West Oak Street Apt. 218, Bozeman, MT 59718; **Mary Rexford**, 30 Sullivan Drive Apt 109, Canton, NY 13617.



Special Gift From The Dudas!

A huge thank you to **Bob** and **Corinne Duda** for their extremely gracious and generous gift to our church of a new **Advent Candelabra**. After last year's near disaster with our old (and very humble) Advent Wreath catching fire, Bob decided it was time to "take it up a notch"; several notches, in fact. We were delighted to receive this gift on Sunday, November 28th, dedicate it to the service and glory of God, and have Bob be the first to light a candle on it during worship. A few paintings on the ceiling and we can start calling ourselves the "Cathedral on the Park!" It is an extremely **thoughtful** and **lasting gesture**, sure to be enjoyed by all future generations of our church.



Bob "The Church Elf" Duda
With New Advent Candelabra



With sanctuary
all ready for the
season,
Walter and
Alina Brown
get into the
Advent spirit.

Giving Thanks For New Friends

Rev. Mike and **Linda** hosted **six international students** from **SLU** at the manse for a traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the fixings. New friends were made, fellowship shared and lots of great food enjoyed.

Thanks to Linda for all the cooking, and to **Carolyn Zanta, Rob, Emily** and **Kate Ewy** for providing a yummy potato casserole and dinner rolls, delivered still warm from their oven. It was a delight to provide a home away from home for these young people from so many parts of the world (Bulgaria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Niger and Ghana, and Kyrgyzstan).



Vyara, Phillip, Anamo, Tucker,
Arlo, Janeil, Faith and Sezim.

What A Ham Dinner!

Huge thanks to **Beth Hayes** and all who donated and helped prepare and serve our recent Ham Dinner Fundraiser. Through these efforts **\$1,642** was raised for the work and mission of our church! Thanks also to the Board of Deacons who delivered meals to the home-bound.



Thanks for all the help to get the meals ready.



Mary Kelly with **Giselle** and **Anastasia**, **Beth Hayes** (in the kitchen) and **Pat Mace** ham it up!

Women's Circle

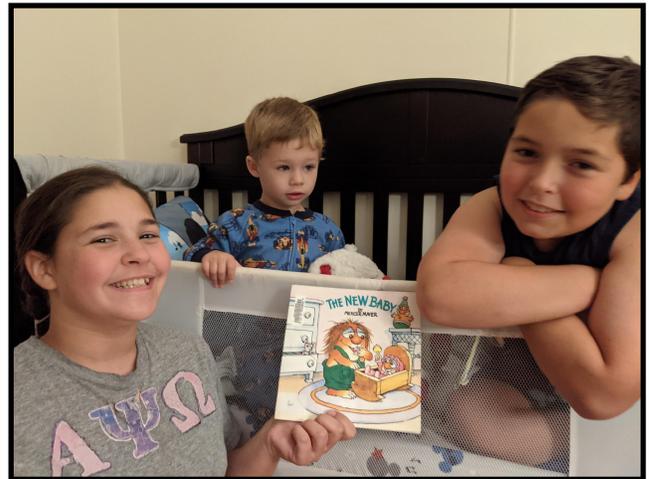
Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 8th** at **7 p.m.** in the **Conference Room** at the church with **"Your Year In Review"** as the topic. All women of the church are welcome to join in for conversation and connection. If you are able to attend, contact **Linda Potter** at nautilus@twcny.rr.com.

Evening Book Group

After a December break, the Evening Book Group will resume 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.



Baby News!



Bill and Cati Gollinger, along with **Olivia, Lincoln** and **Calvin** (above) are thrilled to announce that they are expecting a baby girl to join the family on April 1st. They ask for prayers for a healthy pregnancy.



Saving Grace

Heavenly Father, on this new day
We bow our hearts to You and pray,
We give You thanks
for all You've done
Especially the gift of Your dear Son.
For beauty in nature,
Your glory we see,
For health, and friends, for family,
For daily provision,
Your mercy and care
These are the blessings
You graciously share.
So today we offer this
response of praise
With a promise to follow
You all of our days.

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.

Getting Back On The Horse

As is done each year at this time, the Session recently reviewed the Rolls of our church. **Paradoxically, we are a growing congregation with a shrinking “official” membership.** Frankly, we don't “push” membership, believing it to be something people should come to at their own time (or not). To be clear, anyone who participates in the life of the church is considered one of the flock, regardless of “official” Membership. However, as the Nominating Committee can attest, it is increasingly difficult to find people to serve as Deacons and Elders in our church, as doing so requires one to be an Active Member of the congregation (rather than an Inactive Member, or Baptized Member). Further, with the constraints of COVID, we have been reluctant to invite folks to a New Member Class, haven't Ordained or Installed new Elders or Deacons, haven't been able to Baptize as we would, or hold church school and offer nursery care as we'd like.

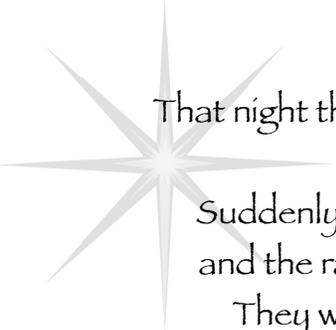
Now, more than ever it would seem, we need to be vigilant about safeguarding ourselves and the safety of our families. However, we also must devise ways to get “back on the horse.” Come the new year we will again be offering Nursery Care and (hopefully) Church School. Also, if you are interested in Baptism, or becoming a Member of the church, please contact Rev. Mike.

Special Music for Advent

During the four Sundays in Advent we are pleased to welcome **Rebecca MacDougall** as a guest singer to enliven our worship with much appreciated (and missed) songs to inspire and refresh. Thanks to Jarret for making this arrangement.



Luke 2:8 - 20



That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby,
guarding their flocks of sheep.

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them,
and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them.

They were terrified, but the angel reassured them.

"Don't be afraid!" he said.

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.
The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today
in Bethlehem, the city of David!

And you will recognize him by this sign:

You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others

- the armies of heaven - praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

When the angels had returned to heaven,

the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem!

Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph.

And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened
and what the angel had said to them about this child.

All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished,
but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.

The shepherds went back to their flocks,

glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

It was just as the angel had told them.



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.

Farm Family Offering - Dec. 5th
COVID Christmas
Advent Candelabra
Family News
Change in Office Hours
Zoom Fellowship
Stewardship Update



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.