

# The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

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February 2022

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

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

# Worship With Us

We are thankful for the ability to have everyone join us for worship in whatever way that works best for each person. Inperson worship continues. Though there are masks and no singing, there is lots of joy in seeing one another. Live stream continues to bring a large number of people to worship and we are always happy to hear your updates and greetings. Though there still seems to be much ground to cover before we fully emerge from this pandemic, we are grateful that we are a joyful and vibrant church community during this time.

# **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Congrega-

tion will take place on Sunday, February 6th following worship via [MNUA] Zoom (follow instructions found elsewhere in the newsletter; always the same link and password). Annual Reports are being emailed and snail mailed the week prior. If you would like a hard copy please contact Karen in the church office.

Rev. Michael P. Cata	nzaro 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			
Andrea Montgomery	Church School Director			
Mary McGreevy	Treasurer			
Patience Boswell	Sexton			
Patience Boswell	Sexton			

Linda Potter......Newsletter Editor Emily & Kate Ewy......Nursery Care Providers NEW Church Office Hrs: 1 - 4 p.m., Tues. & Thur. **Church School To Resume** on March 20th!

The Session is pleased to welcome **An**drea Montgomery as our new Church School Director! Andrea is currently the Director of the St. Lawrence County Office, is married to husband Joe and mother to their sons, **Colin** and **Hunter** (and sister to Michelle Quinelle-Gayle). She has a love for teaching and a background in music/voice. We'll include more information in the March newsletter about Andrea and future plans for Church School.

This month the task will be to get the church school rooms clean, straightened and in shape. Elder **Patrick LaPierre** has volunteered to lead the charge, along with daughters **Daphne** and **Gwen** (thank you!). If you might have time this month to help with this task, please contact Patrick at patlapierre@hotmail.com. Also, if you are interested in helping out with our Church School program (and Nursery, now available each Sunday and being staffed by

**Emily** & **Kate Ewy**) please contact Rev. Mike.

A very exciting time in the life of our church!



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## **Family News**

Congratulations to **Anna** and **James Eller** who are pregnant and expecting a baby girl on June 22! Prayers, also, for **Cati** and **Bill Gollinger** expecting a baby April 1st!

Congratulations to **Marion** and **Jarrett Larson** on the birth of their daughter, Rosie, on January 4th. Big brother Nico thinks all this is just swell!

Thanks to **Rich Grayson** for replacing the lock on the stereo cabinet in the sanctuary.



Best of luck to **Kate Ewy**, participating in the Empire State Games the first weekend in February in figure skating. Keep your edge and your balance, Kate!

**Nancy Lyon**, Rev. Mike's mother, has a new address: Tennyson Court, 49 Tennyson Court, Attn: Nancy Lyon A125, Williamsville, NY 14221.



Prayers for **Rich Grayson** recovering from cataract surgery, and contending with headaches (unrelated to the surgery).

Prayers for **Bill** and **Karen Parker**, both of whom are facing significant health challenges; **Bill Webb** recovering from COVID; **Colleen Grant** being facing difficult health challenges and recovering from a fall at work (and husband, **Dale**, in support of her).

Prayers for the **Boswell Family**, **Gordy** and **Michele Theisen**, as well as **Mary** and **Elliot Rodee** and their family as they endure loss and move through grief.

## Family News - cont.

Prayers for **Beth Hayes** recovering from cataract surgery to both eyes, and on the death of her nephew, Chad McNab, who died just after Christmas following a long battle with cancer. Prayers also for Chad's wife and young children.

Prayers for **Christa Lyon** who continues treatment, and her husband **Marty** under care of Hospice with needs increasing. 43 Lincoln Street, Canton, NY 13617.

Continued prayers for **Jim Durham** rehabbing from knee replacement surgery; **Sean Boutin** and **Kristine McKie** continuing their medical journey; **Galen Pletcher** and **Jean McGuire** as they regain strength from treatment; for **Betsy Robinson** healing from corneal surgery; **Marilyn Rodee** healing from surgery on her toe; and **Bill Rodee** facing medical 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 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; **Ellen Grayson's** sister Connie and her daughter Pam; Glen Erickson recovering from surgery (brother of **Ray** and **Mark**); Raelene McLain (**Vicki's** mother) undergoing treatment; and Mary Theisen (mother of **Gordy**) in Vermont recovering from surgery to repair a fractured hip.

Prayers for Sharon Gaines on the death of her mother Barbara Gaines. Sharon and Barb attended our church for many years with Barb's mother/ Sharon's grandmother **Margaret Maybee**. Cards may be sent to Sharon at 1 Wellington Drive, Massena, NY 13662.

# Thanks For Serving!

Great thanks to **Bill Parker**, **Gordy Theisen** and **Ellen MacMaster**; Elders ending their term of service this month and going off of the Session. Thanks, also, to **Jim Franklin**, **Bob Duda**, **Michelle Theisen** and Marilyn Coir for their good and faithful work as Deacons. Also, thanks to **Janet Stitt** who is ending her time as our esteemed Clerk of Session.

Finally, thanks to **Diane Ladison** for serving as Mission Treasurer, lo these many years! You are appreciated!

# **Evening Book Group**

The Evening Book Group will meet on Tuesday, **February 22nd** with a discussion of **Magic Hour** by Kristin Hannah. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Contact Linda Potter at <a href="mailto:nautilus@twcny.rr.com">nautilus@twcny.rr.com</a> or 315-229-8886 for more information.

### Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday**, **February 9th** at **7 p.m.** in the **Conference Room** at the church. **Ellen MacMaster** will be leading a discussion about hymns. Email your favorite hymns to Ellen at <a href="mailto:dmacmas2@twcny.rr.com">dmacmas2@twcny.rr.com</a> by February 6th and she will research its history. All women of the church are welcome. If you are able to attend, contact **Linda Potter** at nau-

### eNewsletter?

tilus@twcny.rr.com.

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

### **Clerk Needed!**

Folks, we are in need of a person to serve as the **Clerk of Session**; the Clerk need **not** be an Elder or, necessarily, a "member." Responsibilities are straightforward: to attend each meeting of Session, to record the minutes and enter them in the church record, to receive correspondences and give modest assistance at year's end with the annual statistical report we provide to the denomination (other "extra-curriculars" are available, though). If you have any interest at all, please contact **Rev. Mike**.

# Rev. Mike Away

Rev. Mike will be off **Monday**, **February 14th** to the **28th** (he and Linda are considering going "Walk About" for all of you Crocodile Dundee fans). **Chris Remick** will be preaching and leading worship on Sunday **February 20th** and **27th**.

### Thank You!

To **Y'all** (as my Texas family would say), I was completely shocked to receive in excess of some **30 plus cards** and/or telephone calls having to do with my birthday on January 26th. **How had the word gotten out?** I discovered that you were informed in a rather sneaky manner without my knowledge. **What a pleasant surprise!** I wish I could thank you in person but my wife and I have not yet chosen to attend the usual Sunday services. Consider this to be a moderate substitute. - **Bob Fraser** 

### **Visitors Welcome!**

Marilyn & Bill Rodee want to put out the word that they are welcoming visitors! After dealing with some health issues, they are ready to catch up with their church friends. Call or text Marilyn at (315) 854-4962 to say when you'll be by!

### **Church Attendance**

#### In-Person Live Stream

January 2	5	40
January 9	11	32
January 16	No Wor	ship Service
January 23	23	48
January 30	18	68

Average In-Person Attendance: 14 Average Live-Stream Attendance: 47

# **Treasurer's Report**

	Operating	Mission
January 4	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 0.00
January 16	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 31.00
January 29	\$ 8,747.00	\$ 139.00
Total:	\$12,547.00	\$ 170.00

# **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** for at-home or in-person use.

# **Vaccine Sites**

Booster shots for the COVID vaccine are now recommended for all over age 5 and vaccines are available to all those over the age of five. St. Lawrence County Public Heath 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 Gravson 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 Marilvn Coir Nancy Brown Bob Duda Michelle Theisen Jane Cable Stacie Olney-LaPierre Jean McGuire Susan Akins Ellen Gravson Secretary Moderator

Ray Erickson, Treasurer Ex Officio

#### **Committees Chairs**

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

Barry Walch & Beth Haves Facilities Responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property.

Fellowship Ellen Grayson, Pat Mace & Beth Hayes

Responsible for all fellowship events.

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

Beth Haves 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

JJ Jockel & Sean Boutin C&C Program

Personnel Pat Mace, Gordy Theisen & Michelle Quinelle-Gayle

# The Pastor's Report

BRRR, Brrrothers and Sisterrrrs, It certainly was a cold January! I trust you are all warm and well, and that the teeth chattering has subsided.

Winter is the time for story telling, so this month I thought I'd tell you a story of your own. As the case with all the stories I tell, it is true (enough) though identities obfuscated.

A couple of weeks ago, during that brutally frigid cold snap, a message was left on the church answering machine from a person who had run out of kerosene with which to heat their mobile home; apparently due to a paperwork snafu with HEAP. By the time I got the message at 1:30 p.m., they had been about 18 hours without a main heat source, with the temperature poised to drop to -20 again that evening.

It is not at all unusual for the church to receive such calls, though usually they are owed to a lack of payment (which was not the case in this particular instance). What was unusual, is that I've known this person my entire time in Canton; an older, single woman who is a gentle and good soul. She tries very hard with what is, frankly, a very full plate (she is raising her grandchild as the parents are involved or unable). A difficult situation to be sure.

After being unable to reach her on the phone, I drove over to the house. Turns out the tank had been mistakenly allowed to run dry. Not only was fuel required but, in all probability, the supply lines would need to be bled (at the least) if not the nozzle in the heater replaced having been gunked up due to tank sediment. So, two problems to solve and, apparently, the church was the only one to solve them.

She told me she had contacted the fuel supply company, and that they'd be unable to provide a fill that day due to overwhelming demand (as you might imagine at such temperatures). Instead, she was merely looking for a few gallons to get her through. I knew, though, 5 or 10 gallons wasn't going to go very far so I called the fuel company and played the "minister card." To their credit, they said they'd be there that night. However, I'd have to pay for a minimum fill of 100 gallons which totaled a little less than \$500. Which is a lot, and certainly more than we like to provide to any one person at any one time. Really, though, what choice was there? Widows and orphans in distress, and all that. So I drove to the fuel company and gave them my credit card to charge. Thankfully, I knew several families in our church had donated their stimulus check to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, so the money was there. Problem #1 solved.

Which left problem #2, bleeding the lines. 100 gallons of kerosene in the tank wouldn't be of much use if it didn't get to the furnace and/or the furnace would not fire. So, I borrowed a kerosene can from the guys at the Village Barn, filled it, poured the 5 gallons in her tank and asked her to fire up the furnace: no go. In a bit of desperation, I went to Grant's Heating and Plumbing; with whom I've had no dealings, but they were near to the house. By now it was 4 p.m., and I was fearing the worse. However, the folks at Grants were nothing but gracious (small town at its best) sent someone right over, bled the lines, replaced the nozzle and got the furnace working! Problem #2 solved. Having received the good news from the woman I immediately went over to pay the bill, which was just shy of \$100 for the service call (not at all atypical). (Continued on Pg. 6)

"And if one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?" - James 2:16

# Pastor's Report - cont.

Later that night, I got a call from the woman who told me the fuel had been delivered, that they were warm and toasty and profusely thanked the church for their graciousness. Though I lamented the total cost of almost \$600, it was absolutely the right decision to make and I would do it again without hesitation. It made me realize that for many in the community a church is often the last resort; and for this community, our church in particular. Though it certainly came with a higher than desired price tag, I was proud of our congregation's generosity in providing the resources to afford such assistance, and a spirit of grace and compassion that would not only welcome such need, but strive to address it.

That would be the end of the story, except that the following day I did my due diligence in calling the HEAP Office at the county to see if we could recoup any of the money (no way Jose) but also to make sure the paperwork snafu was straightened out so as to solve problem for the long-term. This prompted me to touch base again with the woman who told me that she just got off the phone with the fuel supply company. She told me about 30 minutes after I had paid for the minimum fill, her HEAP benefits came through and HEAP had actually paid for the fill and that the charge on my card had been cancelled. Which, or course, I immediately confirmed with the fuel folks. A bit of a miracle by my reckoning, however large or small (and to this woman, I can assure you, it was a very LARGE miracle, indeed).

I tell you this story because things like this happen all the time at our church. Owing to confidentiality, though, I am rarely able to relate them to the congregation. Sometimes our understanding of the church is limited to our own experience of it. While this is ample and

# Pastor's Report - cont.

sufficient in many regards, we should also remember the power we wield as ambassadors of Christ in our community. I'm not sure what seeds get planted through such merciful and generous acts, but I know they are planted deeply and bear great fruit in God's own time and plan for this world.

May you be warmed this month in knowing the difference we are making as such a humble but spirited group of Christ's disciples. - Rev. Mike



- 1 Jonathan Witherhead
- 3 Debra St. Hilaire,

**Andrew Sutherland** 

- 5 Heidi Ames, Patrick LaPierre
- 6 Gail Abplanalp
- 7 Natasha Rossiter:

Mikey Athanasakis

- 8 Scott Smalling
- 10 Johnny Mousaw
- 11 Michelle Theisen
- 12 Clifford Rossiter
- 13 Marilyn Coir
- 14 Hannah Powers
- 15 Terisa Billings
- 16 Patrick Dean
- 17 Elliott Rodee, Matt Gayle
- 19 Arvilla Aldous; Vanessa Mousaw
- 20 Isabelle Powers, Thomas Potter, Jr.
- 21 Emily Dawley; Sarah Franklin
- 22 John Miller III, Bill Gollinger
- Hope Irene Bethel, Lora Gibson
- 24 Luke Hollis Elvy, Corinne Duda
- 25 Margaret Alexander,

Nancy O'Shaughnessy,

Rob Ewv.

Kevin O' Connell

26 Isaiah Davis



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

### **February Lectionary Readings**

### Sunday, February 6

Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Luke 5:1–11



### Sunday, February 13

Jeremiah 17:5–10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 Luke 6:17–26

### Sunday, February 20

Genesis 45:3–11, 15 Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50 Luke 6:27–38

# Transfiguration of the Lord

- February 27

Exodus 34:29–35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]

# 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.

Share a photo with your church family!
We'd love to **see** what you are doing.
Send it to **Linda Potter** at
nautilus@twcny.rr.com.

### 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 <a href="https://www.ChurchOnThePark.org">www.ChurchOnThePark.org</a> 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.ChurchOn-ThePark.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 <a href="https://www.ChurchOnthe-Park.org">www.ChurchOnthe-Park.org</a> 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 <a href="https://www.ChurchOnThePark.org">www.ChurchOnThePark.org</a> 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**.

# **Presbyterian Worship**

Mike or Keli Hollis. Updates easily done.

The monthly service at Partridge Knoll will resume on **Wednesday February 2nd** 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 **Face-book page** which changes regularly - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TheFirstPres-byterianChurchonthePark">https://www.facebook.com/TheFirstPres-byterianChurchonthePark</a>

### **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 <a href="www.ChurchOnThePark.org">www.ChurchOnThePark.org</a> 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 <a href="mailto:RevMike@ChurchOn-ThePark.Org">RevMike@ChurchOn-ThePark.Org</a>.

To view recordings of previous worship services, please subscribe to our <u>YouTube</u> 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!** 

### Sincere Thanks

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to take the time to thank you all for showing up after my husband died. You as a church showed up in MANY WAYS - cards, food, hugs, prayers, coming to calling hours and service, the monetary donations, text messages, phone calls, offers for rides, words of encouragement for the kids and me. the meal after the service and the list goes on. Thank you all for being the church and more importantly being our church and standing beside us. I know there is never going to be enough words of thanks to express my gratitude. Please know how deeply you have touched all of us. With Gratitude and Love - Patience, Cameron and Aubrey

### You Are Great

Again the Rodees say thank you to our church family for taking care of our needs. As we mature (better use of words than 'get older'!) our needs seem to explode! Our latest need was a bone infection in Marilyn's hammer toe and surgery to remove part of the toe December 15th-right in the midst of Christmas preps and celebrations.

We sincerely appreciate and enjoyed our Presbyterian family taking time from their holiday preparations to make delicious meals and transport both of us to appointments. Your prayers, cards and calls gave us strength and joy. It all augmented what Elliott and Mary were providing for us too. AND Bill only had to heat fabulous meals in the microwave while Marilyn was off her feet plus not driving.

Our hearts are bursting as we relax with care in our own home to allow necessary healing to take place.

Faithfully - Bill and Marilyn

# Food For Fellowship

Food for Fellowship returns to bring warmth to your winter! Here's the deal - we provide a soup meal for **anyone** in the church who wants one. In return, we ask that you "**pay it forward**" and send greetings to a church friend with a notecard that we supply with your meal.

Food For Fellowship will be on Thursday, March 10th. A meal of soup, homemade bread/muffins, and dessert will be available with gluten-free options for each menu item. It can be picked up at the church or delivered to your home. Along with the meal, you will receive a notecard with an addressed, stamped envelope for another member of your church family. Write a quick note of fellowship and pop it in the mail. Food For Fellowship (get it!?!).

Full details about the menu will be in the March newsletter. In the meantime, if you want to help out by baking cookies, making soup or delivering meals, contact **Linda Potter** at <a href="mailto:nautilus@twcny.rr.com">nautilus@twcny.rr.com</a> or text her at 315-229-8886.



For the grains from the prairies,
For the fruit from the trees,
For the juice of the vine,
For the fish of the seas;
For all his creation,
For all that he shares,
We thank our Creator
for all of this care.