



# The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

March 2022

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

Phone (315) 386-2570  
www.ChurchOnThePark.org  
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## Times Are A Changin'...

Times are a changing as COVID cases decrease and new guidelines are issued. With that in mind and safety as our top concern, we are continuing with in-person worship with **masks welcome** but **not required** at this time. There is still **no singing** and we will continue to make informed decisions as we move forward. The live-stream will always be available and we love seeing you in whatever way works best. Times may be a changing but one thing that will not change is the fellowship of our congregation.

## Church School Resumes!

Under the leadership of our new Church School Director, **Andrea Montgomery**, we will have a "soft re-start" to Church School for ages K through 6th Grade beginning **Sunday, March 20th**. If you are interested in helping out with our Church School program (and Nursery, now available each Sunday and being staffed by Emily and Kate Ewy) please contact Rev. Mike. **A very exciting time in the life of our church!**

**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  
**Andrea Montgomery**..... Church School Director  
**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.**

## Greetings From Andrea

Greetings! I am **Andrea Montgomery**, the new **Church School Director**. I am look forward to meeting everyone and working with the children.

A little about me - I grew up in Helena, went to college in Plattsburgh and then worked in NYC for a few years. Family duties called me back home in 2003. My Bachelor of Arts Degrees are in Sociology and Theatre with a Minor in Music (Voice). I worked at St. Lawrence NYSARC for 10 years as the Director of the Community Arts Program. I created the arts program for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to allow them the opportunity to express their creative talents. Myself, along with a great team of staff and volunteers, taught classes in: Theatre, Music, Visual Arts and Dance, which culminated in an annual showcase of talents. In 2014, I became the Director of the Office for the Aging and continue with this work today.

My husband **Joe** and I reside in Old DeKalb with our sons, **Hunter** (18) and **Colin** (9). I can be reached at 315-244-7628 or via email at: [amq20@yahoo.com](mailto:amq20@yahoo.com). Thanks!

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## Family News

Congratulations to **Galen Pletcher** who received news that he is in complete remission from the Hodgkins Lymphoma! Continued prayers as he enters the "surveillance" phase. Wonderful news!

Watch Your Step! Prayers for **Lew Shepard** who fell and injured his leg (39 Meade Road, Canton, NY 13617), **Aubrey Boswell** who slipped on the ice and broke her forearm (14 Park Street Apt. 3, Canton, NY 13617); **Mary Kelly** who took a spill while jogging in Florida and is recovering from surgery to her wrist (2121 Dekalb Kelly Road, Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680), **Rich Grayson** who broke his ankle walking the dog (23 CR 33, Madrid, NY 13660) and **Wanda Renick** who took a tumble in her home with no harm done.

Prayers for **Nick Scelzi** recovering from an infection, and home now after an extended hospital stay (72 Church Street, Apt. 3A, Lisbon, NY 13658); **Bill** and **Karen Parker**, both of whom are facing significant health challenges (17 State Street); and **Colleen Grant** facing difficult health challenges and recovering from a fall at work (and husband, **Dale**, in support of her).

Continued prayers for for **Cati** and **Bill Gollinger** expecting a baby **April 1st!** and for **Anna** and **James Eller** who are pregnant and expecting a baby girl on June 22!

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. (See article about The Riley Basford Legacy Fund in this NL.)

Prayers for **Christa Lyon** who continues treatment, and her husband **Marty** under care of Hospice with increasing needs (43 Lincoln Street, Canton, NY 13617); and for Missy Bonaguide facing health challenges (daughter of Larry & Ellen Compeau).

## Family News - cont.

Continued prayers for **Jim Durham** rehabbing from knee replacement surgery; **Sean Boutin** and **Kristin McKie** on their 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; **Tom Dildine** recovering from cataract surgeries and ensuing complications; and **Bill Rodee** facing medical challenges.

Prayers for the **children** and **young families** of our church (and community) as they 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 & Mark**); Raelene McLain (**Vicki's** mother) undergoing treatment; and Mary Theisen (mother of **Gordy**) recovering from surgery to repair a fractured hip.

Prayers for **Grace Chiumia**, our friend in Malawi Africa who helped us start Widows of Grace, who is dying from brain cancer; and for her daughter Ruth and husband Sam (who administers the Clint McCoy Feeding Center on our behalf).

Great thanks to **Patrick**, **Gwen** and **Daphne LaPierre** who graciously cleaned, sorted and straightened the Church School rooms ahead of the March 20th resumption. We are very appreciative of their leadership and efforts.

Thanks to our wonderful neighbor Paul MacKay at the Lawrence Funeral Home for keeping the back lot and rear sidewalk to the church plowed all winter out of kindness.

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Tuesday, **March 22nd** with a discussion led by **Vicki McLain** of *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Contact Linda Potter at [nautilus@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:nautilus@twcnny.rr.com) or 315-229-8886 for more information.



## Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, March 9th** at **7 p.m.** in the **Conference Room** at the church. All women of the church are welcome. If you are able to attend, contact **Linda Potter** at [nautilus@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:nautilus@twcnny.rr.com).

## Address Correction

Last month we provided an old address for **Sharon Gaines**, our apologies. Her new address is: 44 Hale Road, Canton, NY 13617-3265.

## 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](mailto: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, necessary, 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-curricular" are available, though). If you have any interest at all, please



## Staff Raises

At this year's Annual Meeting of the Congregation, those in attendance suggested that our church staff receive a **4% raise** rather than the proposed 3% owing to current inflation and the church's relative financial stability (this would include Sexton, Choir Director and Pianist, Newsletter Editor, Secretary and Pastor). At the February Session meeting the additional 1% was approved and will go into effect retroactively from the start of 2022. **Thanks** for the **leadership** of the congregation, and for the **sustaining efforts** of those who make our church happen.

## Thanks For The Cookies!

Thanks to **Jean McGuire, Arvilla Aldous, Barb Brown, Rob Ewy** and **Linda Potter** who baked so many wonderful and delicious cookies to support the Village of Canton's Community Engagement Committee's First Responders "meet and greet" as part of Winterfest's Sledding Contest (Rev. Mike is a member of the committee).



## Church Attendance

|             | In-Person | Live Stream |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| February 6  | 14        | 43          |
| February 13 | 13        | 40          |

Average In-Person Attendance: 14  
Average Live-Stream Attendance: 42

## Treasurer's Report

|            | Operating   | Mission   |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| January 29 | \$ 8,713.00 | \$ 460.00 |

## Deacons' Offering

A reminder that 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 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**.

*Saving  
Grace*

We thank you, God, for this food  
And pray you'll bless it to our good;  
Help us live your name in praise  
In all we do through all our days.

## 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      | Jim Franklin     |
| Beth Hayes              | Heidi Ames       | Pat McGuire      |
| Michelle Quinelle-Gayle |                  | Michelle Theisen |
| TBD - Clerk Of Session  |                  |                  |

### Board of Deacons

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

|   |                       |               |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Christa Lyon                              | Georgia Vose          | Mark Brackett |
| Nancy Brown                               | Susan Akins           | Jane Cable    |
|   | Stacie Olney-LaPierre |               |
| Jean McGuire                              |                       | 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** JJ Jockel, Mark Erickson,  
Rich Grayson - Chair  
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** Michelle Theisen  
Helping our church, community & world.

**Treasurer** Mary McGreevy

**Financial Secretary** Barry Walch

**C&C Program** JJ Jockel & Sean Boutin

**Personnel** Pat Mace, Patrick LaPierre  
& Michelle Quinelle-Gayle



# The Pastor's Report

Yep, it is still winter; but we are close. I trust that these words find you all well, my sisters and brothers, and that you are "keeping on keeping on."

At a time of year when it seems that change simply will not come, we are actually on the cusp of a great deal of change in our church.

Though we must still be vigilant in our efforts to address COVID, beginning this Sunday masking at church will be "**Welcome But Not Required.**" Owing to recent CDC guidelines and a downturn in infection rates in the county (which will continue, hopefully) the Session is taking a realistic, though optimistic, approach to safeguarding all of the folks in our congregation; both young and old. As this is a fluid situation, we will continue to assess the circumstance each month and act with whatever liberality the science and common sense allows.

Ultimately, though, such decisions are not the sole purview of the Session (or any any form/level of government or authority). I would like to remind us all of these words from the very first pages of our denomination's "Book of Order" (i.e., the rule book):

## G-1.0301 Right of Judgment

(1) (a) That "God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men (*sic*) which are in anything contrary to God's Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship."

(b) Therefore we consider the rights of private judgment, in all matters that respect religion, as universal and unalienable.

The notion of **Religious Liberty** is a seminal and foundational tenet of our tradition which dates back to 1788. Given the history and origin of our nation as a colony under British rule, it is no surprise that this belief would occupy such an important position and role in the establishment and propagation of our denomination (several signers of the Declaration of Independence were "prominent" Presbyterians).

Though often conveniently overlooked or ignored by some who trumpet Religious Liberty, such a privilege is *always* accompanied by an equal portion of **Religious Responsibility**. The act of balancing the two, therefore, has always been a tricky conundrum given that life, and its circumstances, is always a fluid situation. This is particularly the case, now, during this time of COVID when our One nation under God is so bitterly divided.

While there has certainly been much strife and consternation as regards these matters, with such turbulence comes great opportunity. The opportunity to be gracious within oneself, and to extend graciousness to our neighbors. Let us recognize and respect that each person is on their own journey, and have both **the right and the responsibility** to act in accord with their own conscience *before God*.

In the days and weeks ahead, in our church, community and larger world, folks will be making their own decisions about any number of issues...including masking. Let us regard each other with the respect due each and every child of God.

We are close, Rev. Mike

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2



## All-Church Read

On **Sunday, March 27th** we will be holding our **21st Annual All Church Read** with **Clementine** by Sarah Penny-packer. In this first book of the series, Clementine tries to help out her friend Margaret, but ends up in a lot of trouble for it. Things get worse each day of the week, until finally she's worried that Margaret is right: Clementine's parents might consider her "the hard one" in the family. They're up to something mysterious...are they thinking they'd be better off if they only had her little vegetable-named brother..."the easy one"? This chapter book is a quick read, with a humorous and witty first person narration that amusingly and insightfully recounts a week in the life of a precocious and very astute young girl.

As always, Rev. Mike will (somehow) incorporate the book's themes into the sermon. The church will be purchasing and gifting a copy of the book to **each family** in the church with **young children**; with additional copies available to the congregation to read and share. Everyone is invited to come along for the ride as we cultivate and encourage young readers in our congregation.

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## Spring Rummage Sale!

Plans are underway for a Spring Rummage Sale to take place **Friday, April 22nd** and **Saturday, April 23rd** with set-up the week prior. This will be our first rummage sale since the fall of 2019 which means there will be a lot of rummage to sort through! Shoppers and volunteers will be **encouraged** to wear masks but it is not mandatory. Start setting aside spring and summer clothes and household items (no electronics) for donations and mark your calendars. Thanks to **Pat Mace** and **Ellen Grayson** for chairing this event.



## MARCH Birthdays

- 1 Sandy Pollard
- 3 Mark Brackett, Robert Brown,  
Sally Street, Ali Smith,  
Porter Repicky
- 4 Talis Mackey
- 7 Jeannette Cole, Deborah Nikkari
- 9 Mary Rodee
- 13 Ricky Athanasakis
- 15 Ben Brackett, Mark Brown
- 16 Mark Brown Jr.
- 18 Dave Smith
- 20 Patricia Mace
- 21 John Goetze, Barb King,  
Noah Trombly
- 22 Lorien Kelly, Kane Smith,
- 24 Wayne Miller, Ray Erikson
- 26 Jayden & Camden Ladison
- 29 Ayden Mousaw
- 30 Liam Rodee, Kristen Holbrook,  
Kaitlyn Holbrook
- 31 Sean Boutin

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



## MARCH Anniversaries

- 15 Michael Catanzaro & Linda Potter
- 30 Matt Gayle & Michelle Quinell Gayle

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## 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](mailto:office@ChurchOnThePark.org)

Also, let **Rev. Mike** know when the kids have a game, recital, performance or award ceremony. Text him at (716) 857-0111 or email him at [RevMike@churchonthepark.org](mailto:RevMike@churchonthepark.org).

## March Lectionary Readings

### First Sunday in Lent - March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13



### Second Sunday in Lent - March 13

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36

### Third Sunday in Lent - March 20

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

### Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 27

Joshua 5:9-12      2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Psalm 32              Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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## Food For Fellowship

Food for Fellowship is here 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 note-card that we supply with your meal.

On **Thursday, March 10th**, your choice of **Broccoli Cheddar Soup, White Chicken Chili** (gluten & dairy free) - (yes, you can try both), **bread, GF corn muffins**, and **cookies** (regular and GF) can be **picked up** at the church or **delivered** to your home. Notecards and envelopes stamped and addressed for another member of our church family will come with your meal. Write a quick note of fellowship and pop it in the mail. Food For Fellowship (get it!?!).



To place your order, contact **Linda Potter** at [nautilus@twcny.rr.com](mailto:nautilus@twcny.rr.com) or call/text her at 315-229-8886.

## Virtual Worship & Fellowship

For live-streaming, fellowship, bulletins, sermons newsletter and other resources, **begin by bookmarking the church website:** [www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

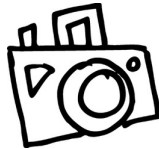
If you want to learn more about the prayer chain, call **Rev. Mike** at 386-2570 or **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.



## 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 monthly service at Partridge Knoll will resume on **Wednesday, March 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 **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](mailto:office@ChurchOnThePark.org)

Reverend Mike's email address:  
[RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org](mailto:RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org)

## Sermons & Services

**Written Sermons** in PDF format are now available for viewing or downloading on Monday at [www.ChurchOnThePark.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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!**



## Riley Basford Legacy Fund

In honor and remembrance of **Riley Basford**, a charitable mission and fund has been established by his parents through the NNY Community Foundation to support youth in their pursuit of **safe** and **meaningful experiences** throughout their lives and in the community.

Riley was a **positive force** for good in the community whose inspiring spirit made friends and family feel deeply connected and appreciated. He worked hard, loved the outdoors, and made those around him always smile. After unexpectedly passing away last year, it remained important to Riley's family and friends to honor him in an **enduring** way. "Our hope for Riley's legacy fund and its outreach is to help us heal by supporting the community that supported us in our darkest days and continues to want to honor and remember Riley with us," said **Mary Rodee**, Riley's mother, and **Darren Basford**, Riley's father.



The Riley Basford Legacy Fund will provide funding for **education, training, and awareness** to St. Lawrence County schools for programs and projects centered on cyberbullying and cyber safety, anti-bullying, and character education; support students with demonstrated needs at Potsdam Central School and help students enrolled at St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES with funding to secure materials for classes or help BOCES graduates entering the workforce. To help build the Riley Basford Legacy Fund, gifts can be made to the Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington Street, Watertown 13601, and designate the gift to the **Riley Basford Legacy Fund**.

## Student News

Congratulations to **Kate Ewy** to earned a Silver Medal at the Empire State Games held in Lake Placid at the start of February! Way to go Kate! (Click on the link below and go to -58.48 on the YouTube video to see Katie's routine.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFonni-GTzE4>



Congratulations to **Harper Elvy** and **Darren Potter**, members of the Canton Bears 10U (10 and under) co-ed hockey team which took first place at this year's Lake Placid Tournament (first time ever)! Congrats also to Coach **Tom Potter**. Wahoo!



# PANTRY WINTER WISH LIST

*Our pantry serves neighbors in need from the Towns of Canton, Clare, DeKalb, Hermon, Lisbon and Russell, and the Village of Heuvelton. People may pick up food twice a month. We welcome donations of unexpired, unopened food, including this list of special needs. Thank you!*

## Fresh fruits & vegetables

We get plenty of canned fruits and vegetables but don't often have fresh ones this time of year. When there's a 2 for 1 sale, please donate to the pantry.

## What's for lunch?

How about some hearty soup and crackers? Favorites include: chicken noodle and minestrone. Mac & cheese, stew, canned meat, and peanut butter also are popular.

## Snacks

Everyone needs a little treat. Granola bars, cookies, graham crackers, cake mix and frosting, or brownies make our families smile.

## Homeless

We see people who have been evicted, lost a home to fire, are just released from jail, etc. They often are temporarily placed in motels, without freezers or ovens. Foods that they can carry, such as pop top cans, single-serving foods, small drinks, and microwaveable items are a big help.

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**To donate food, please drop it off from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at 30 Court St. Thank you very much!**

## Personal Care

*Food is the priority of our pantry, but we know that personal care products are expensive; many families have to skimp on these necessities. We are seeking bars of soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes. We also package these items with food and manual can openers for homeless or displaced people, so every donation is much appreciated.*

## Pets are family, too



When money is tight, it can be hard to feed the family and even more difficult to purchase pet food. Sometimes a pet is the only friend a child has, or it means to the world to a senior. To help ease that heartache, we're adding small amounts of cat and dog food to our inventory for families in emergencies.

It's expensive, so we're not asking you to donate lots of it every week, but please pick up a couple of extra cans or a small bag of pet food when you are already getting it for your pets.



# Swing The Bell!

Yes, it is a crazy idea. Yes, it is probably a case of “want” rather than “need.” Yes, perhaps now is not the time. Yes, we have bigger fish to fry. And, yes, in this day and age of electronic communication the notion seems admittedly quaint. Nevertheless, the Session and Rev. Mike would like to float the idea of undertaking an effort to get the bell in the steeple of our church up and swinging again!

Though most are unaware, many years ago (before the memory of any) the bell was disabled so as to make it incapable of swinging. In its current state we can “toll” the bell, but we cannot “peal” the bell. A “toll” is a mournful sound typically associated with death and sorrow (as in “for whom the bell tolls”). In contrast, a “peal” is a joyous and exuberant sound which results from swinging a bell back and forth (as in peals of laughter).



While we do yet know *when* the bell was disabled (research ongoing) we now know *why*. Recently we had a representative from White’s Clock and Carillon Northeast make a cold-call on the church. After speaking to them, Barry Walch and Rev. Mike decided it wouldn’t hurt to have them take a look and see what it would cost to restore the bell so it could swing once more. Soon after, an inspection was made (numerous photos were taken and can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#)) and we received a quote of **\$8k to get the bell up and swinging again**. This would include replacing the existing wooden wheel (now over 100 years old) with a custom metal wheel, and replacing the existing “A-stands” with new custom stands (with new roller bearings) upon which the bell sits and swivels. The photo the right shows where one of the existing stands is cracked, which almost certainly led to the bell being disabled for safety sake, and the existing large wooden wheel to be replaced.

On the “up-side” the inspection determined that the bell itself is in excellent condition, as is the clapper. Though it would be a major overhaul, the fix itself is quite simple. The new materials would be fabricated off-site, and installation would be a matter of days. White’s Clock and Carillon Northeast has done work on the Ogdensburg City Hall, and in Pulaski, Homer and Laconia (click [HERE](#) to go to their website).





# Is Swing The Thing?

Now, though, we come to the most important question, “Why should we do this?” Frankly, it has been many decades, generations even, since the sound of our bell has been heard joyously ringing in the park, through the village and across the fields. It is the heart of our congregation that is the wellspring of our work and mission as a church, not bells and whistles (pun intended).

That said, the lessons gleaned from the recent restoration of the fountain in the Park have shown us what we already knew to be true: symbols matter a great deal, as does pride of place, and honoring our history as a means of forging our future. Though difficult to measure, the intangible value of undertaking such an effort to “Swing the Bell!” would surely be known and felt in our own generation, and echo mightily in those generations to follow.

Beyond the obvious theological symbolism of enabling us to, once again, “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” so as to counter the often somber tones of life which are too often heard, the most poignant answers to the question, “Why should we do this?” are to be found in the words of Martha L. Manley, in her humble letter to her “Dear Pastor.” Below you will find a short history of the bells which have hung in our steeple, including the one which currently resides there even now and ever so quietly.

Finally, be assured this IS a *crazy* idea, but not one without merit. Just how much merit, however, will be for each of us to decide. Another lesson learned from the Fountain restoration is that while a few big donations pave the way, it is the might of many which carries the day. If folks are willing, we can give this a try; knowing there is no rush. If we don’t raise enough, we will simply return each donation and take satisfaction in having tried. Let us, each, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Donations may be send to The First Presbyterian Church, 17 Park Street, Canton, NY 13617, earmarked for “Swing The Bell!” Thank You!

Ring out old bell for years to come  
And when our life’s full work is done  
Hush thou, on waiting slumber blest  
With folded wing, till morn we rest.





## The Church Bell

“History of The First Presbyterian Church, Canton NY” by Rev. W.H. Stubbledine, 1907

The first bell owned by the congregation was purchased by the women, the money for which was raised at a fair, held in the old Town Hall on Court Street. The bell was hung in 1851. Owing to a flaw in the casting the bell soon lost its tone and in 1858 was exchanged for another. Sweet and loud were its notes as across village and field it pealed forth its welcome invitation to attend the service of the sanctuary of the Lord.

In 1876 after it had been decided to build a new church the members assembled to dismantle the church. Fifty times did the bell toll the knell of the church beneath. Reverent hands lifted it from its resting place and conveyed it to a temporary shelter, until God should crown the efforts of the people with success in their great undertaking. After a year of silence, upon the completion of the church, the bell was again placed in position and once again called the people to worship and service.

For twenty-five years longer the bell called the people to the House of God. “For nine years its voice had lost its sweetness and year by year it grew more husky and indistinct,” until it finally sounded more like clanging brass whose discordant notes jarred upon the nerves. Reluctantly the old bell was discarded.

In the year 1901 Mrs. Martha L. Manley informed the Ladies’ Aid Society of the church, of which she was a member, that she would present the church with a bell (on certain simple conditions) in honor of her lamented husband, Gilbert B. Manley. The conditions were readily agreed to and a bell weighing ten hundred and eighty-six pounds was contracted for at a cost of three hundred and seventy-five dollars.

Inscribed upon the bell is the following:

Presented to the Presbyterian Church, Canton, New York  
In memory of Gilbert B. Manley, by his wife, Martha L., A. D., 1902.  
“Let him that heareth say come.”

The following letter from Mrs. Manley was read at the dedication of the bell:

My Dear Pastor:

It is with no small degree of pleasure that I present to the First Presbyterian Church, Canton, so dear to the heart of my late husband and myself, this memorial bell, which seems to me a fitting token, both to the House of God and to its departed friend and benefactor, who was so seldom absent from its gatherings, which knew him once but shall know him no more forever. May its notes ring pure and true, and I trust that sometime when they ring out on the calm still air, the people will recognize in them the voice calling them to worship in their beautiful sanctuary. **I trust also that pastor and people may hear in them a call of love, tenderness and encouragement, that shall unite them in thought and spirit, and bind them with cords of consideration, mutual helpfulness, and earnest effort, so essential to the fullest realization of the true work of any House of Worship, the Lord’s work,** a work that was so near and dear, and withal lovely to the man in whose memory the bell is given. Altho I shall never hear its tones I feel that each Sabbath their echoes will penetrate the gloom of my darkened room, dispelling in a measure its inevitable clouds and perhaps revealing to me glimpses of its silver lining. May the gift be accepted as from a sincere and loving friend. - Martha L. Manley

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.

**Church School Resumes on March 20th**

**Evening Book Group**



**Women's Circle**

**Family News**

**Sing The Bell!**

**Food For Fellowship - March 10th**

**All-Church Read - March 27th**



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.