



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

May 2022

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

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

Together In Worship

It has been wonderful to see so many people - in the **pews** and on the **livestream** - joining together for worship. **Masks** continue to be welcome but not required for in-person though we do ask people to put them on for **singing**. Our church's spirit of kindness, resilience and faith continues to be strong.

Rummage Sale Report

Our spring Rummage Sale (the first one since Fall 2019) brought in **\$1,683!!!** Thanks to **Pat Mace** and **Ellen Grayson** for their tireless and cheerful leadership, those who donated, and all those who helped: **Susan Akins, Arvilla & Vern Aldous, Faye Bartley, Aubrey, Cameron & Patience Boswell, Barb Brown, Sean Boutin, Lynne Forbes, Ellen & Rich Grayson, J.J. Jockel, Christa Lyon, David Mace & Diane Bacon, Scott & Diane Mace, Jean & Pat McGuire, Barb King, Rita Ostrander, Linda Potter, Michelle Quinelle-Gayle, Marilyn Rodee, Gordy & Michelle Theisen, Georgia Vose** and **Rev. Mike**.

Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro..... Pastor
Donna Doig, CLP..... Associate Pastor
Jarrett Larson.....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 Office Hrs: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tues. & Thur.

Church School Is Back!

Our new Church School Director, **Andrea Montgomery**, is "All In" with the kids of our church with the resumption of Church School. What a joy to once again see kids having fun and learning about God, their faith and our church. Masks are welcome but not required, with each family/kid decided what is best for them. We begin each Sunday all together in worship, with the kids going down to Church School following the Time with The Young and Young at Heart. On Communion Sundays, the kids will return to the sanctuary to join us for the celebration of the Sacrament. 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!**



Table Of Contents

Family News.....	2
Evening Book Group.....	3
Women's Circle.....	3
Treasurer's Report.....	4
Pastor's Report.....	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	6
Virtual Worship & Fellowship.....	7
Surprise!.....	9
Swing The Bell Update.....	10

Family News

Special thanks to **Doug Wingerath** for a fabulous vocal solo during the Easter Sunday service!

Prayers for **Karen Parker** who suffered a stroke last month and, after a stay in the hospital, is now undergoing in-patient rehabilitation at the Canton nursing home, and for **Bill Parker** who is also facing significant health challenges (17 State Street, Canton, NY 13617); prayers for **Colleen Grant** also facing health issues, and husband, **Dale**, in support of her (55 Bird Street, Canton, NY 13617).

Continued prayers for **Lew Shepard** still healing from a fall (39 Meade Road, Canton, NY 13617), **Aubrey Boswell** healing from a broken arm (14 Park Street Apt. 3, Canton, NY 13617) and **Mary Kelly** rehabbing from surgery for a broken wrist (2121 Dekalb Kelly Road, Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680); **Christa Lyon** continuing treatment, and her husband **Marty** under care of Hospice with needs increasing (43 Lincoln Street, Canton, NY 13617); for **Galen Pletcher** and **Jean McGuire** to remain cancer-free following successful treatment; for **Betsy Robinson** healing from corneal surgery; and **Bill Rodee** facing medical challenges.

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.

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 Paul Catanzaro undergoing chemotherapy treatments for another occurrence of non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (Paul is Rev. Mike's "kid" brother); Janice Brown, mother of **Anna Eller**, who suffered a heart-attack and subsequent complication following surgery and is recovering at Fletcher-

Family News - cont.

Allen; Mitzi VonSchiller, friend of Beth Hayes, facing health issues; **Ellen Grayson** and her sister, Nancy, on the death of Nancy's husband Al; Carl Janack (son of **Ellen**) being treated for colon cancer, and Judy Norton (wife of Brian and daughter-in-law of **Shirley**) undergoing treatment; Glen Erickson recovering from surgery (brother of **Ray & Mark**); and, Raelene McLain (**Vicki's** mother) recovering from treatment.

Dave and **Ellen MacMaster** will soon move to 2535 Shreve Rd, Wooster Ohio 44691. *"After nearly a two year search, we are delighted to relocate to within 1.5 hours to our son Aaron's family and still be within 7.5 hours of our Pleasant Lake cottage. Movers have been contacted and we await a date that they will transport our household. Then our Hannawa home will be for sale. WE WILL MISS YOU ALL!"*

Congratulations to **Kristin McKie** and **Sean Boutin** who recently announced that they are **PREGNANT!!!** Due date is October 4th. Please keep this couple, and baby-to-be, in prayer over the coming months. Kristin is doing well, and Sean is fully engaged in the "nesting process."

Bill and **Cati Gollinger** welcomed their newest addition, **Audrey Pearl Gollinger** on April 10, 2022 at 3:31 p.m. She weighed 9 lbs., 7 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. Everyone is doing great (including Olivia, Calvin and Lincoln). Bill and Cati would like to thank everyone for their prayers and say they feel truly blessed to be part of this church family.



Student News

Sophia Smaling was playing with the Potsdam Junior Hockey Association on their girls 8U Ice Storm team and also the PJHA 6U team which has both boys and girls. Way to go!



Walter and **Alina Kuzmicki** joined a friend for some sand fun recently.



New Church Secretary!

After a long and extensive search, we are delighted to welcome **Jarrett Larson** as our new church Secretary! New office hours will be **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from **9 a.m.** to **1 p.m.** beginning Tuesday May 3rd. Please stop by and say hello as Jarrett works his magic on a different kind of keyboard.

welcome

Support For Ukraine

We hold the people of Ukraine in our heart-felt prayers during this tragic and deeply troubling time. Those seeking to provide financial support through a trusted source may do so through our denomination's Presbyterian Relief Agency. You may click on this link: <https://pma.p-cusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/>. To give by phone, call 800-872-3283; to send a check, please put "Disaster Relief-International Refugee Programs (DR000156)" on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Thank you!

Guest Preacher

Rev. Mike will be on vacation from May 16 - 22. We welcome back **Chris Remick** as our guest preacher on May 22nd.

Committal Service

A grave-side committal service for **Charlie Alexander** will take place Friday, May 27th at 11 a.m. at the Fairview Cemetery on Miner Street.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Tuesday, **May 24th** for a discussion of **A Beautiful Country** by Qian Julie Wang. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Contact Linda Potter at nautilus@twcny.rr.com or 315-229-8886 for more information.



Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, May 11th** 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@twcny.rr.com.

Church Attendance

	In-Person	Live Stream	CS
April 3	59	25	9
April 10	50	26	8
April 17	60	80	No CS
April 23	24	26	No CS

Average In-Person Attendance: 48
 Average Live-Stream Attendance: 39
 Average Church School Attendance: 9

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
March 28	\$ 6,013.00	\$ 162.00
April 4	\$ 1,210.00	\$ 9,090.00
April 10	\$ 2,653.00	\$ 1,460.00
Total:	\$ 9,876.00	\$10,712.00

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is **Sunday, May 8th**. A joyful day to pay tribute and remember the women in our lives. Though we will not be holding our usual Mother's Day brunch (we hope it will return next year!) we join in the celebration. **Thanks Moms!**



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

Deacons' Offering

The Deacons' Offering is on the **first Sunday** of every month. This is a vital component of our church's work and mission. If possible, 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.

Officers & Committees

Elders On Session

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

Rich Grayson	Patrick LaPierre	Martha Cole
Patricia Mace	Barry Walch	Jim Franklin
Beth Hayes	Heidi Ames	Pat McGuire
Michelle Quinelle-Gayle		Michelle Theisen
Patricia Mace - 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

Whew! Huh? Life just keeps coming and I'm so glad we are on this ride together my brothers and sisters; both near and far.

Though we reside in the county which has the highest rate of COVID in the state (currently) it does seem we are make our way forward. I wouldn't begin to say that things are anywhere near normal, but I'm not so sure "normal" is necessarily the goal we should have for ourselves; or, at the very least, it shouldn't be our only goal.

Of late, I've been thinking a great deal about pace, about consistency and about cumulative effect. I've also been trying a new paradigm on for size; which has been interesting.

I'm not really sure of the wisdom of saying all of this to you, but being up-front about things has always been my *modus operandi* and, for the most part, always worked out for the best (and for all parties concerned). For my entire time here in Canton I have operated with the assumption that at some point I would leave here and take another church as my final stopping point prior to retirement (and that I'm even talking about "retirement" is still very much an odd thing to me). I based this assumption not on the tone, shape or quality of our congregation, or of my own life as both are, quite simply, peachy in my estimation. No, this was simply an assumption based on the math.

When Linda and I arrive in Canton, in 1998, I was 33 years old. At that point, objectively, I was looking at 34 working years ahead of me; a tad longer than I'd already spent walking this earth. That is, a lifetime. Frankly, and as those who were

around during that period would surely agree, making it even those first *four* years felt like a stretch. Against all odds and expectations, I've now been here 23 years, and have roughly 10 years to go until retirement. Or, 18% of my current life-time.

Subjectively, it has been my experience that ministers rarely hit the sweet spot in terms of the length of their tenure; either they leave too soon or stay too long. Once the former option became moot, the latter has always been my biggest concern; and still is. The issue, therefore, is remaining innovative and energized for the home-stretch.

Linda and I are not the only ones with a vote, though. How all of this plays out will depend very much on all of *you*. Given this, I make a standing invitation to each of you to weigh-in if you think it might be best for the church that a change begin to be contemplated. Linda and I want what is best for the church, as this will surely be what is best for us.

Beyond any impossible prognostications about the future, the most important matter that concerns us is the *present*. Frankly, when I stop to look around I'm amazed at how much we have accomplished together over these years. While the flash may have been tempered some, the bang is still very much happening. Lives are being changed, help is being provided, fun is being had, children are growing up know they are loved, and all of us are being supported and accompanied on the journey homeward.

Slow and steady wins the race,
Rev. Mike



Slow And Steady
Wins The Race

"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1b

Saving Grace

We thank thee, God,
for this our food,
for life and health
and every good.
May we,
more blest than we deserve,
live less for self
and more to serve.

In The Swing Of Things



Richard Cassara, pictured above, went up into the steeple for a front row seat to see the work done by **White's Clock and Carillon** which allows our bell to **swing** and thus **peal** out a joyful sound. The bell will be re-dedicated during the **Sunday, May 8th** worship service. See page **10** for more information.

MAY Birthdays

- 1 Mary Rexford
- 2 Rachel Syvertsen
- 4 Matthew Gibson,
Beverly Findley,
Janet Stitt
- 8 Melba Reinke, Edith Frazer,
Bill Parker
- 10 Sue Dean; Mike Athanasakis,
Katie Smith
- 11 Barry Walch
- 12 Claire Casey
- 13 Andrew Clearwater Johnson
- 14 Nikko Sheats
- 15 Martha Cole
- 16 Wesley Gayle
- 17 Tucker Catanzaro,
Katelyn Grant, Anna Eller
- 18 Elias Paul Nelson
- 19 Chris Sutherland, Katie Bennett
- 20 Erica Cole
- 21 Rebecca Alexander
- 22 Alina Kuzmicki
- 23 Colleen Grant
- 24 Nicole Holbrook
- 26 Ashley Elliott
- 27 Dave Nelson, Olivia Bourdette,
John Smith

MAY Anniversaries

- 10 Kevin and Karen Bailey
- 21 Bill & Karen Parker
- 27 Michael & Edith Frazer
- 30 Sean Boutin & Kristin McKie

Give Us A Hand

Plans are underway for a **mural** made up of the **hand outlines** of the children in the church. **Page 13** shows what is needed. Trace your child's hands on a clean sheet of paper, include their name and age and bring (or mail) to the church. This activity will also be done during Church School.

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

May Lectionary Readings

May 1

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19



May 8

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 15

Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:1-6
Psalm 148
John 13:31-35

May 22

Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
Psalm 67

May 29

Acts 16:16-34
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26
Psalm 97

May Session Meeting

Due to Memorial Day, the May Session meeting will be held via Zoom on **May 23rd** (a week earlier than usual).

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. Text him at (716) 857-0111 or email him at RevMike@churchonthepark.org.

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.

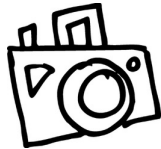
If you want to learn more about the prayer chain, call **Rev. Mike** at 386-2570 or **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.



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 final service at Partridge Knoll for the season will be on **Wednesday, May 4th at 11 a.m.** Due to COVID, it will be for residents only and there is no lunch. 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!**

Surprise!

During the children's sermon at the Easter service, Rev. Mike threw a **surprise party** for the kids as metaphor. There were party hats, balloons, noise makers, streamers and confetti and the entire congregation got "silly-stringed!" (Thanks to Patience, Cameron and Aubrey for cleaning up afterward.)



She Shall Be Called Blessed

Recently we four new moms and moms-to-be were in attendance at worship and the women of the church gathered to lay hands upon them and offer a prayer and blessing led by **Vicki McLain** (a long-time labor and delivery nurse). Pictured are **Marion Larson** with **Rosie** (born January 4th), **Kristin McKie** (due October 4th), **Cati Gollinger** (who delivered daughter Audrey Pearl on April 10) and **Anna Eller** (due June 27th).



Swing



\$8,000

\$7,000

\$6,000

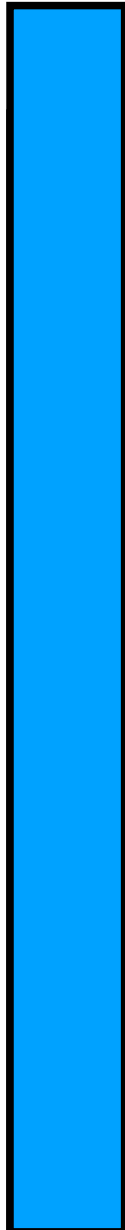
\$5,000

\$4,000

\$3,000

\$2,000

\$1,000



The Bell!

**We've Met Our Goal
and The Bell
Is Up and SWJNGJNG!**



WE DID IT!!!! Thanks to the *very* generous support of the congregation we've met (and even exceeded) our goal to raise the funds necessary to "Swing The Bell!" On Thursday April 24th the crew from White's Clock and Carillon installed the new "A stands," wheel and rope; our bell is up and swinging once more! After generations of somber tones, our bell now peals *joyfully* (and wow, is it *fun* to ring)! What a wonderful symbol of forging our future by reclaiming our past. (Surplus funds will be used for saved for future periodic maintenance.)

During the worship service on **Sunday May 8th** (Mother's Day) we will re-dedicate the bell and formally return it to service to the glory of God.

Every person from our congregation, young and old, should plan on "Swinging The Bell" as a rite of passage and being part of the Church on the Park!

Rallying Around The Railing!



Thanks to all the folks who helped remove the railing by the flower garden (and to Barry Walch for subsequently cracking off all the old concrete).

Railing Work Day!

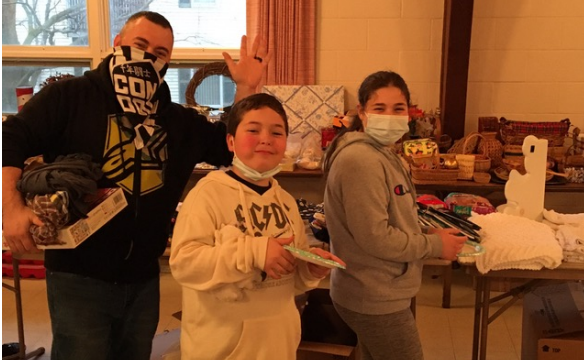
We will re-set the railing during a “work day” on **Saturday May 14th beginning at 9 a.m.** (yes, there will be coffee and donuts). Many hands make light work; any and all help would be appreciated! Materials will be on-hand and ready to go.

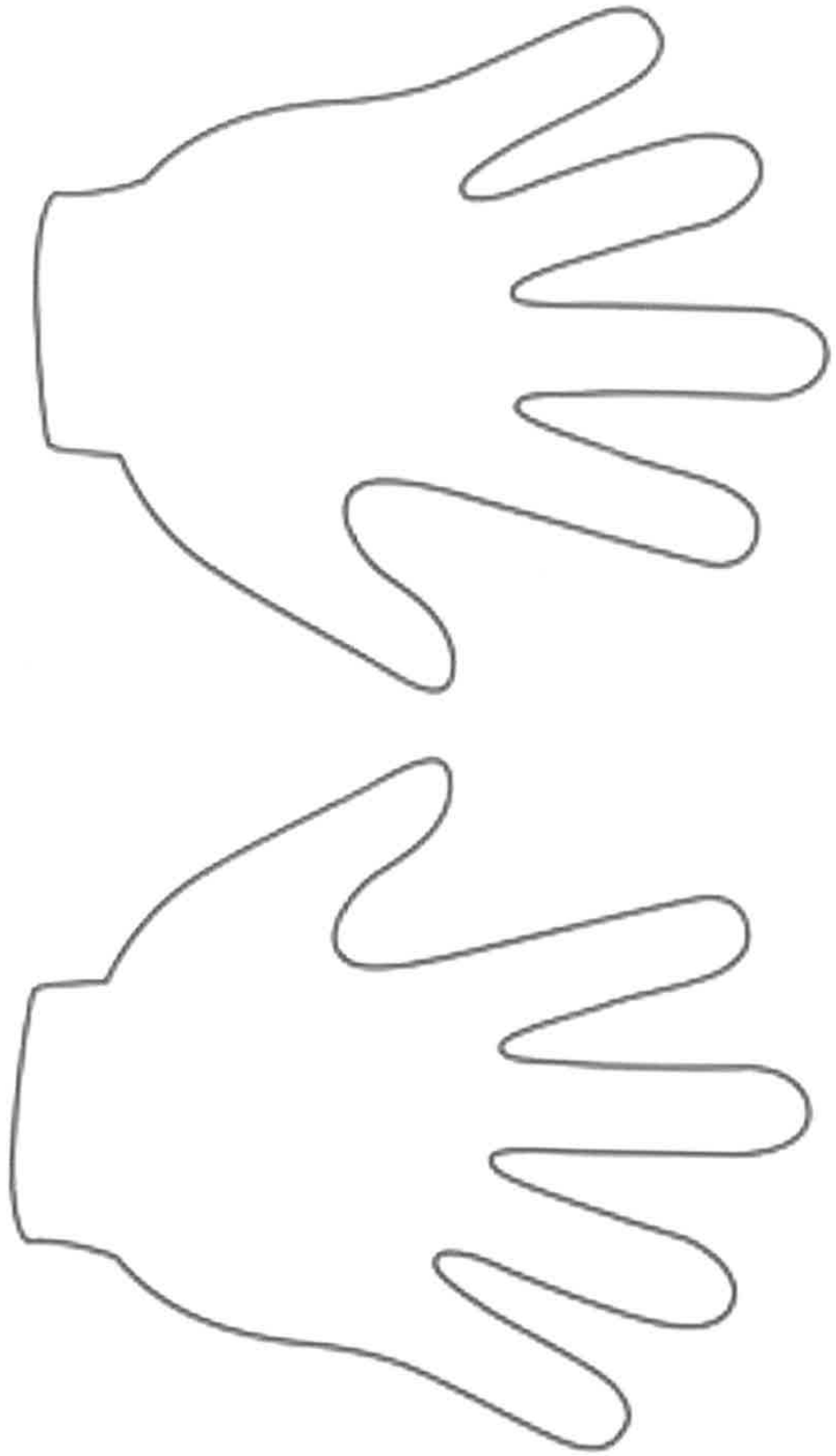


Fun, Food and Fellowship At The Sneak Peak!

Though an important fundraiser for our church, one of the benefits of the Rummage Sale Is the “Sneak Peak” which takes place Thursday evening before the sale.

Folks from the congregation get “first dibs” on treasures, enjoy pizza and delight in each other’s company. It’s a ton of fun.





Name: _____

Age: _____

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.



Swing The Bell Re-Dedication!
Rummage Sale Report
New Church Secretary
Sneak Peek Photos
Church School Is Back!
Handprint Mural
Rallying Around The Railing



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.