



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

December 2023

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

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

Sundays in December

• **Worship Begins At 10:00 a.m.** •

• December 3rd •

1st Sunday of Advent
Communion
Deacon & Food Shelf Offering
Farm Family Offering



• December 10th

2nd Sunday of Advent
CS Christmas Pageant
Church Potluck Lunch
Deacons To Deliver Poinsettias
& Cookies to Homebound



• December 17th •

3rd Sunday of Advent
Noisy Can Offering
Service of Lessons & Carols



• December 24th •

4th Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. - Worship Service
7 p.m. - Candlelight Service



• December 31st •

New Year's Eve
Rev. Mike on Vacation
Chris Remick To Preach



**No Church School on Sunday
December 17th, 24th or 31st.**

Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro..... Pastor
Pastor Donna Doig, CLP..... Associate Pastor
Andrea Montgomery.....Church School Director
Kathleen Crecco.....Director of Music & Pianist
Bob Duda.....Assistant Director
Emily & Kate Ewy.....Nursery Care Providers
Patience Boswell..... Sexton
Cameron Boswell.....Stream Master
Linda Potter.....Newsletter Editor
Office Hours: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tues. & Thursday

Christmas On The Park

There is a *great* deal of fun happening this month at our church. We will begin the Advent season with Communion Sunday, **December 3rd**. On the **10th**, we will delight at the Church School **Christmas Pageant** which will be held during the morning worship service (i.e. no sermon!) followed by a *fabulous* **Potluck Lunch**. *Every* child interested in participating in the pageant is very welcome to attend the preparations December 3rd during Church School, and the **dress rehearsal** to be held at **2 p.m.** on Saturday, **December 9th**. Afterward, **volunteers are needed at 4 p.m. to set up for potluck.**



On **Sunday, December 17th** will be a **Service of Lessons & Carols**, led by members of the congregation (contact **Rev. Mike** if you'd like to do a reading). **Poinsettias** will decorate the sanctuary in Advent beginning **Sunday, December 17th**. See **pg. 11** to order in memory or honor of a loved one. Order deadline is **December 10th**.

This year, with **Christmas Eve** falling on a Sunday, we will gather for our usual morning service at 10 a.m., and will also offer the traditional **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at **7 p.m.** that same evening (both services will be live-streamed). On Sunday, **December 31st**, the first Sunday in "Christmastide" the wonderful Christopher Remick will be leading worship so as to give Rev. Mike what will surely be a much needed break.

Family News

Our congregation is deeply saddened to learn of the death of **Sandy Pollard**. A beloved and vital member of our congregation who was involved in so many aspects of the life and work of our church, Sandy had been living near her family in Massachusetts for the past few years. Cards may be sent to her son, Mark Pollard, at 213 Powell Road, Cummington, MA 01026. Rev. Mike was able to speak with Mark recently and he shared that the weekend before her death, his family, and Sandy's other son, Don, and his family came to be with her and she enjoyed a wonderful reunion filled with love and affection. In the sure and certain hope of new life through Christ.

Prayers for **Judy Gibson** undergoing chemotherapy and radiation as follow-up to successful surgery. Cards may be sent to her at 35 Riverside Dr., Apt. 3G, Canton, NY 13617; **Vern Aldous** who continues periodic treatments. Scans taken every three months have been clear! Congratulations **Vern** and **Arvilla**; and for **Dick Partch** on the death of his beloved wife, Joanne. Cards may be sent to P.O. Box 308, Hannawa Falls, NY 13647.

Prayers for **Nick Scelzi**, a resident of the Canton Nursing home. Nick is having a difficult time and any support or visits would be greatly appreciated. Cards may be sent care of Nick to Maple Wood Nursing Home, Maple 109, 205 State Street Road, Canton NY 13617.



Prayers for **Marilyn Coir** now living at 125 Dover Road, Mills, MA 02054 (a permanent change for her). Marilyn would be *delighted* to receive cards and notes!

Prayers for Peggy Caswell, sister of **Arvilla Aldous**, undergoing treatment for cancer.

More Family News

Prayers for **Bill Webb** struggling with loss of sight. Visits and cards greatly appreciated (27 Pine Street, Canton NY 13617). **Kudos to Bill's children** for getting him set up with wifi and a computer so he can participate in the live-stream of the Sunday worship service. What a joy to have Bill back with us in worship.

Prayers for **Rita Ostrander**, **Christa Lyon** and **Josh Holbrook** facing health challenges; **Mark Erickson** contending with health issues; Janet Favro currently residing at Keene Valley Neighborhood House (Attn Janet Favro, P.O. Box 46, Keene Valley, NY 12943); **Colleen Grant** for healing and wholeness, and husband **Dale** in support of her, (55 Bird Street, Canton, NY 13617); Jody Upton, sister of **Susan Akins**, being treated for a recurrence of cancer; and, **Roger McBath**, a resident at the Canton Nursing Home.



Long distance prayers for Scott McLain recovering from a broken hip (father of **Vicki McLain**, who lives in NH), Carole Schumann recovering from knee replacement (mother of **Heidi Ames**, who lives in MN), Karole Eller also recovering from a broken hip (mother of **James Eller**, who lives in Rochester) and the brother of **Jane Cable**, John Mark, for a recurrence of pancreatic cancer (awaiting results); and his wife, Darlene, who was recently diagnosed with uterine cancer (awaiting referral to Mayo Clinic). Hard.

Prayers for **Rich Denison**, now home and recovering from significant surgery; and his wife **Jeannie** in support of him. Rich and Jeannie are regular participants in virtual worship most Sundays.

Farm Family Offering

This is an opportunity for you to share your **mission dollars** with **local farmers**. Because of this mission program, which we began in 2002, many farm families have been able to buy presents for their children when they wondered where the money would come from to do so.

Our local producers have to deal with **whatever weather** that Mother Nature sends - sun, rain sleet, dry or soggy fields, warm or freezing temperatures. Today's economy is not easy. Cost of production may be higher than the payment they receive for their product. Despite these challenges, our local farmers will do their best to provide their **foods** and **products** to us.

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.

Bring your donation to church on **Sunday, December 3rd** 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 Coordinator

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

BIG Boxes for Hunter!

Great thanks to everyone who donated items for PFC **Hunter** Montgomery, son of **Joe & Andrea Montgomery** and big brother to **Colin**, who is serving in the U.S. Army and has been deployed to Iraq as part of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment. Thanks also to the good folks at the SLC Probation Department (where Joe works) who amassed an equally bounteous offering. Together we were able to ship **two HUGE boxes of treats, food stuffs, hygiene items and sources of entertainment** to Hunter to enjoy and share with those serving along side him. **This was a terrific outpouring of support** not only to Hunter, but to his family as well. Please hold Hunter, and his family, in your prayers at this extremely difficult time; as well as all of the men and women serving our nation in the armed forces. Pictured are the kids of the church helping Rev. Mike bless the contents of the care package during worship.



Stewardship Update

Barry Walch reports that this year's Stewardship drive is going extremely well. Though we have lost several supporters over the past year due to death, pledges to the Operating Budget are **\$111,996**, which is a **\$2,000 increase** from last year; while the Mission Budget has seen a **\$1,500 increase** to total **\$9,484**. We are still hoping there are others who will be able to support the church in the coming year. We celebrate the incredible generosity of our congregation, and their great support of the work and mission of our church!

A BIG thank you to everyone!



Church Attendance

	In-Person	Stream	CS
November 5	53	44	9
November 12	46	38	10
November 15	43	35	13
November 22	43	32	No CS

Average In-Person Attendance: 46

Average Live-Stream Attendance: 37

Average CS Attendance: 11

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
November 5	\$1,787.00	\$ 40.00
November 12	\$5,919.68	\$ 175.00
November 20	\$5,927.00	\$1,385.00
Total:	\$13,633.68	\$1,600.00

Cookie Bakers Needed!

This year we will continue the tradition of the Deacons delivering **poinsettias** to the homebound along with **cookies** on Sunday, **December 10th**.

We are looking for volunteers to bake so as to end up with a total of **20 dozen cookies**.

With a variety of Christmas cookies donated, we can gift an assorted dozen to each person.

Beth Hayes and helpers will be baking cookies at the church on December 9th to get us started but more bakers are needed as well. Extra cookies will be shared with all at the potluck brunch on December 10th.



Please contact **Linda Potter** at nutilus@twcny.rr.com or text her at (315) 229-8886 if you would like to donate (let her know how many dozen you'll be providing and what kind; no nuts please). Cookies will need to be to the church either on **Saturday, December 9th** (can be left in the kitchen) or Sunday morning before or after worship, the **10th**.

Officers & Committees

Elders On Session

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

Joe Montgomery	Patrick LaPierre	Rob Ewy
Patricia Mace	Barry Walch	Jim Franklin
Beth Hayes	Heidi Ames	Pat McGuire
Michelle Quinell-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
Susan Akins	Jane Cable	Stacie Olney-LaPierre
Jean McGuire		Ellen Grayson
Secretary		Moderator
Ray Erickson, Treasurer <i>Ex Officio</i>		

Committees

Chairs

Resources	Jim Franklin
Responsible for managing and dispensing funds to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.	
Facilities	Barry Walch, Joe Montgomery & 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	Jim Franklin, Mark Brackett, Beth Hayes - Chair
Responsible for filling Session, Deacons & Offices.	
Church School	Michelle Quinell-Gayle
Responsible for growth, nurturing & learning.	
Worship	Michelle Quinell-Gayle & Rob Ewy
With pastor, responsible for worship.	
Communion	Pat Mace & Vicki McLain
Stewardship	Heidi Ames & Patrick LaPierre
Responsible for securing resources and energy to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.	
Mission	Michelle Theisen
Helping our church, community and world.	
Treasurer	Mary McGreevy
Financial Secretary	Barry Walch
Asst. Financial Secretary	Anna Eller
C&C Program	JJ Jockel, Sean Boutin & Michelle Theisen
Personnel	Pat Mace, Michelle Quinell-Gayle & Patrick LaPierre

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 ghosts of COVID Christmases past, 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 a Pastor, to take a breath, create some space, and give myself over to remembering the BIG picture while looking 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

Session Report

The Session met on October 30th. **Michelle Guinell-Gayle** and **Rob Ewy** will attend a GardenShare meeting to explain the use of the park for the Farmers' Market. A church **work day** will take place on Saturday, November 4th. WalthaGaye Leavitt, who grew up attending our church, will deliver the sermon on November 12th. Chris Remick will fill the pulpit on November 19th while Rev. Mike is on vacation.

The church has received a full price offer of \$56,000 for the **Selleck property**, which is in process. A **new drain** was installed outside the secretary's office and there is no water in the basement.

Margaret (Peggy) **Andes** will become a new member of the church. A new **lapel mic** has been purchased. The purchase of a mixer, snake and headphones for the sound system was approved. **Beth Hayes** requested that a light be installed outside the back door to come on at night as there is no light at present. It will be looked into as well as having one installed outside the front door.

Helen Pletcher was very pleased with the reception held following the memorial for her husband, **Galen**. The children's Christmas Pageant and church potluck will be held on December 10th. There will be a 10 a.m. worship service on Christmas Eve as well as the 7 p.m. Candlelight Service.

Next meeting is November 27th.

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 13th** at **7 p.m.** in Lorna's Lounge. All women of the church are welcome. If you are able to attend, contact **Linda Potter** at nautilus@twc-ny.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 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").

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,
Jessica Witherhead
- 14 David Witherhead
- 15 Evan Poole
- 17 Colin Montgomery
- 18 Sarah Melville, Pat McGuire
- 19 Kristin McKie
- 20 Dale Grant
- 21 Mark Erickson,
Lance Erickson
- 23 Faye Bartley
- 26 Rance Davis, David Gordon
- 29 Jane Cable
- 30 Janet Favro,
Kathryn (McAuliffe) O'Connell
- 31 Michael Witherhead

DECEMBER

Anniversaries

- 22 Gerald & Beverly Findley
- 23 Kenneth & Mary Garwood

Saving Grace

We thank thee Father,
for thy care
And for thy bounty everywhere,
For this and every other gift,
Our grateful hearts
to thee we lift.

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

December Lectionary Readings

1st Sunday of Advent - December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37



2nd Sunday of Advent - December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

4th Sunday of Advent - December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve) - December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Listen Up!

Our own **Tiffany Soricelli** was recently interviewed by North Country Public Radio regarding her business **Virtuoso Asset management** which is dedicated to serving artists and supporters of the arts at different stages of life from varied backgrounds and experiences (as well as our church). You can listen to the interview by clicking on this [link](#).



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

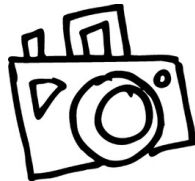
Prayer Chain to offer prayers for folks who are ill, troubled or in need.

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



Photo Directory

Our Photo Directory is no longer available 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 **Partridge Knoll service** is on **December 6th** and will continue through the winter (except January) on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at **11:00 a.m.**



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...

Remember - **Name Tag Sunday** is **November 19th**.

Come early to church and make your own name tag.
Get to know your neighbor.

Food Festival at Congregation Beth El

After a three year COVID hiatus, this celebration of **Jewish foods and culture** will return **Sunday, December 3rd**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival will feature matzo ball soup, kugels, bagels, falafels, blintzes, potato latkes, baked goods, a bread sale, gifts, raffles and more! Address is 81 Market Street in Potsdam. Rev. Mike is a **HUGE** fan (he *loves* the latkes) and will surely be in attendance. Given everything happening in the world and our nation these days, this is a wonderful opportunity to show support and enjoy some terrific food!

A Lithe & Lively Loft

Recently, our esteemed Choir Director **Kathleen Crecco** had the “Wiley Coyote Super Genius” idea of inviting the youth of our church to join the choir! The response has been terrific with a wonderful group of young people being added to its ranks.

Not only is the Choir Loft filling up quickly, it is bursting with “a



joyful noise” made unto the Lord. Thanks to Kathleen, and all the members of the choir (veteran and new) who are adding so much to our worship service, both in terms of sound and energy.

Deacon's Offering

The Deacon's Offering is 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 Deacon's along with your pledge or regular offering. **Thank you!**

Swingin' & Ringin' The Bell!

A reminder to everyone that a rite of passage at the Church on the Park is to ring our recently rehung **church bell** at least once. Last month young **Alina** graduated to the **Rank of Ringer** (with an assist from Arlo). Remember, the bell is there to be rung out loudly and joyously across the Park and throughout our village (each Sunday or anytime you feel moved to do so). So, don't be shy, step right up and get that bell swingin' and ringin'! Just remember to let go of the rope on the rise, or your spirit won't be the only thing that gets lifted.

Santa In The Park

This year our church was again delighted to host Canton's “Santa in the Park” and to provide a warm and dry space to enjoy **cocoa** and **cookies** in the spirit of community.



Great thanks to all who helped and, especially, **Beth Hayes** who took leave of her kitchen duties to eagerly seize the opportunity to sit upon Santa's lap (apparently, she told Santa all she wants for Christmas is for Jim Franklin to be on time to church).

Farewell Arlo

Recently, the children of the church helped Rev. Mike offer a blessing upon a child of the church, **Arlo Catanzaro**, who has moved to Saratoga Springs to begin a new job and life. With the recent departure of his brother, Tucker, who moved to Brooklyn earlier this fall to work as an EMT in the “Big City,” the transition to a permanent empty nest is now complete for Rev. Mike and Linda (rooms for rent!).



Welcome Peggy!

On Sunday, November 12th we were delighted to welcome **Peggy Andes** into the membership of our church! We are a growing congregation, both in numbers and vitality, and look forward to adding Peggy's unique gifts and energy to our family of faith.

Thanks WalthaGaye!

The congregation would like to thank **WalthaGaye Leavitt** (daughter of **Carolyn**) who shared her faith journey with the congregation last month, as well as stories of growing up in our church. Pictured is the traditional "New Member Cake" (chocolate with chocolate...YUM!) to welcome **Peggy Andes** and to welcome home WalthaGaye.



Student News

Congratulations to **Natasha Rossiter** who was part of the stage crew for the Canton High School's Fall production of *Murder's in the Heir* which was put on the first week in November.

Congratulations to **Cameron Boswell** who has been accepted to SUNY Canton for the Fall 2024 Semester where he is interested in the new Cyber Security program. Cam is the son of **Patience Boswell**. Way to go Cameron!

Congratulations to **Kate Ewy** who took 5th place in the 100 yard breast stroke at sectional and improved her PR by 4.31 seconds (quite a big improvement!).

Luke Elvy will be part of SLU Annual Candlelight Service at Gunnison Chapel on December 6th. Way to go big Luke!

December Session Meeting

A reminder that there will be no regular monthly Session meeting in December, as it would fall the week between Christmas and New Year's. Instead, and is our usual practice, we will be meeting **Monday, December 11th at 7 p.m.** to set the budget for the coming year.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who showed up to lend a hand (and muscle) for the church work day on November 4th. Hats off to **Nick** and **Christy Dekay** for initiating the effort. They were joined by their children **Rosalee** and **Sebastian** along with **Ellen Grayson, Pat Mace, Heidi Ames, Joe Montgomery, Arlo Catanzaro, Barry Walch, Jim Franklin, Vicki McLain, Doug Wingerath, Linda Potter** and **Rev. Mike**. Big thanks to **Mark Brackett** for provided the trailer which was loaded up with debris from the basement as we make progress to reclaiming that space for a youth room.

CCP Update

During October, the Church & Community Program served **199** households which comprised **426** individuals. Of these, **12** were new and one individual was homeless.

Our church continues to support the CCP with its Noisy Can Offering. Those funds, **\$75**, were used at a shopping trip to Walmart by **Michelle Theisen**, one of our CCP representatives, along with **Nick** and **Sebastian Dekay**. They purchased soups, breakfast bars and potatoes.

Fresh produce is especially needed during the winter months at CCP. Along with this, other needed donations are applesauce, canned goods and personal care items. Your generous support of CCP is greatly appreciated.



In Memory and Honor of Family, Friends & Loved Ones

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia through the church (**cost \$20**), please fill out the **order form** below.

Please return order form and payment to
First Presbyterian Church, 17 Park Street, Canton NY 13617
by **December 10th at Noon.**
(The deadline to place our order with White's Flowers.)

You are welcome to provide your own plant; however, we will still need the information regarding your memorial for the bulletin insert by **December 10th** as well.

(Please pick up your Poinsettia following the Christmas Eve Service, or earlier, so you may enjoy it at home.)

You may also email your order to office@churchonthepark.org and send payment after.

Name: _____

In memory of:

Red #: _____ White #: _____

Cash: _____ Check: _____



PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 10th, 2023.

Help Protect Our Children

Mary Rodee recently shared important information which we would like to pass along to the congregation regarding current legislative initiatives:

I am writing to ask for your support. Since Riley's death I have been working with advocacy groups called [FairPlay](#) and [ParentsTogether](#). We travel to DC and campaign for The Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) ([S.1409](#)). It is championed by U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and supported by [46 bipartisan Senators](#). **The next step is for the Senate to vote on the bill before the end of the year and Senate Leaders [Schumer](#) and [McConnell](#) are the ones that can make that happen. I am begging [Schumer](#) to introduce this bill, please help me!**

The attached picture shows a group of parents meeting with Senators Blackburn and Blumenthal, only 3 of the moms pictured with me are people I've met before. When I go on these trips, I meet new devastated families EVERY TIME! No one is safe from this wrath of Big Tech. None of their harms are the same as mine, they include: children who purchased pure fentanyl on snapchat thinking it was oxycodone and died; children who have tried the choking challenge that is fed to them on their "for you" page without ever searching; teens who are suffering from eating disorders because of black box algorithms sending them disordered eating content after they search "girls soccer highlights"; teens who took their lives after having their faces superimposed on Emmett Tills hanging body surrounded by the KKK and sent to their entire high school anonymously and their state has no hate crime laws; I can go on and on and on and every story is deeply devastating. **The most painful this trip was meeting a 17 year old who killed her two best friends while trying the speed challenge on Snapchat. And to quote Randi, "they can turn all of this off today, let's make them".**



Please use these links to [sign one](#) or [both of the letters](#) for me and Riley and all those families who will never get justice, we just live on hope that we can stop social media harms from ripping apart anymore lives.

Thanks so much for considering,
Mary Rodee

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Christ The King Sunday No Church School 11:00AM Greening Of The Church 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	27 7:00PM Session	28 7:00PM Evening Book Group	29	30 5:45PM Deacons Meeting 6:30PM Choir Practice	1	2
3 Communion Deacon & Food Offering Farm Family Offering 11:00AM Beth-El Food Festival 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	4	5	6 11:00AM PK Service	7 6:30PM Choir Practice	8 Hanukkah (1st day)	9 2:00PM Pageant Rehearsal FH & Sanctuary 4:00PM Potluck Set-Up
10 CS Pageant Poinsettias & Cookies Delivered Potluck Lunch 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	11 9:00AM Session Budget Meeting (7 p.m.) CR	12	13 7:00PM Women's Circle	14 6:30PM Choir Practice	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 Lessons & Carols Name Tag Sunday Noisy Can Offering 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	18	19	20	21 6:30PM Choir Practice	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 10:00AM Worship Service 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting 7:00PM Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa 7:00PM No Evening Book Group	27	28 5:45PM Deacons Meeting 6:30PM Choir Practice	29	30
31 Chris Remick To Preach Rev. Mike on Vacation New Year's Eve 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	1 New Year's Day	2	3 11:00AM PK Service	4 6:30PM Choir Practice	5	6

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.



**Christmas On The Park
Farm Family Offering - Dec. 3rd
Christmas Pageant & Potluck
Cookie Bakers Needed
Poinsettia Order Form
Service of Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7 p.m.**



**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.**