

The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

January 2024

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

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

Sundays in January

- · Worship Begins At 10:00 a.m. ·
 - · January 7th ·

No Communion
Baptism of the Lord
Church School Resumes
Deacons & Food Shelf Offering
De-Greening of the Church after Worship

· January 14th ·

Bring A Friend To Church

January 21st

Name Tag Sunday Noisy Can Offering

· January 28th ·

National Kazoo Day





Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, February 4th following worship in Fellowship Hall. The deadline to receive annual reports is Thursday,

January 15th. This will give us enough time to assemble the reports and make them



reports and make them available to the congregation.

Rev. Michael P. Catanzar	o Pastor			
Pastor Donna Doig, CLP	Associate Pastor			
Andrea Montgomery	Church School Director			
Kathleen CreccoDi	rector of Music & Pianist			
TBD	Secretary			
Emily & Kate Ewy	Nursery Care Providers			
Patience Boswell	Sexton			
Cameron Boswell	Stream Master			
Linda Potter				
Office Hours: 10 a.m 1 p.m. Tues. & Thursday				

2024 Per Capita

Our **notice of apportionment** from the Presbyterian Church (USA) for 2024 amounts to **\$33 per active member** to be paid on or before February 1st. This is the money that the church pays for services provided by the church organization (General Assembly, Synod of the Northeast, and the Presbytery of Northern New York).

If you are able to include a Per Capita donation during January, it would **significantly** help our 2024 budget. Thank you!

Thank You!

Huge thank you for everyone who provided the **cookies** which were delivered with a poinsettia to shut-ins by our **Deacons**. Your generosity made Christmas sweeter for many!

Thanks as well to our Christian Ed Director, **Andrea Montgomery** who along with **Michelle Quinell-Gayle** and the CS kids put on a terrific Christmas pageant. Our Annual Christmas Potluck followed the pageant and many hands made light work as we set up tables, put out the delicious food and cleaned up. See photos of the Christmas pageant on pg. **10** & **11**.

Church Closing Info

In the event of inhospitable weather, notice of the cancellation of our worship service will be emailed to the congregation and listed on WWNY-TV and NCPR radio.

Family News

Profound thanks to **John** and **Lynn Miller** for polishing the brass of the liturgical accourtements for our sanctuary: two sets of candlesticks, the cross and the Advent Candelabra. A real labor of love!

Thanks to **Michelle Quinell-Gayle** and **Pat Mace** for helping out in the office (special thanks to **Pat** for folding all of the Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve bulletins); **Rob Ewy** for extricating the bat in Rev. Mike's office and releasing back into the wild; and, Master **Sean Boutin** for replacing the light in the women's bathroom. Huge help!

Great gratitude to **Beth Hayes**, **Sarah Rodee** and **Liam Rodee** for making caramel corn for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, a beloved Christmas tradition at the Church on the Park. Over 70 bags of the delicious confection were enjoy by a bevy of kids (and few "big" kids to boot).

Thanks to **Bob Duda** for helping to organize and set a fabulous feast of noshes for the Greening of the Church.

We are saddened to learn of the death of

Mary Rexford in early December, and hold her family in our prayers at this difficult time.

Prayers for **Judy Gibson** recovering from chemotherapy and radiation as follow-up to successful surgery. Cards may be sent to her at 35 Riverside Dr., Apt. 3G, Canton, NY 13617.

Continued prayers for Army PFC **Hunter Montgomery**, son of **Joe** & **Andrea Montgomery** and big brother to **Colin**, who is serving our nation and has been deployed to Iraq until late next spring as part of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment.

More Family News

Prayers for **Vern Aldous** who continues periodic treatments. Scans taken every three months have been clear! Congratulations **Vern** and **Arvilla**.

Prayers 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 permeant change for her). Marilyn would be *delighted* to receive cards and notes!

Prayers for **Bill Webb** struggling with loss of sight. Visits and cards greatly appreciated (27 Pine Street, Canton NY 13617).

Prayers for **Rita Ostrander**, **Christa Lyon** and **Josh Holbrook** facing health challenges; 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 reoccurrence 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).

More Family News

Prayers for **Alice Poole** facing health challenges; Peggy Caswell, sister of **Arvilla Aldous**, undergoing treatment for cancer.

Prayers for **Rich Denison**, now home and dealing with a complication due to surgery; and his wife **Jeannie** in support of him. Rich and Jeannie are regular participants in virtual worship most Sundays.

Student News

Congratulations to those students who help put on a wonderful winter concert this year at the Canton Middle School: **Gwen LaPierre** and **Aubrey Boswell**, members of the 6th Grade Chorus; members of the 6th Grade Band, **Julia Andes** (Horn), **Aubrey Boswell** (Clarinet), **Gwen LaPierre** (Horn); and members of the Middle School Jazz Band, **Maria Franklin** (Tenor Sax) and **Gwen LaPierre** (Horn)! Well done, hard work & practice pays off!

Hats off to **Olivia Bourdette**, daughter of **Bill** and **Cati Gollinger**, who is participating in the Science Olympiad at the Canton HS, has been selected to All-County Band, is playing in-door soccer this winter in Watertown, and has been selected for a NYSSMA solo on drums.

Congratulations to Elias Nelson, grandson of **Lynne Pickens** and **Jim Robertson**, who has been accepted at Haverford College (outside Philadelphia). Way to go Elias!

Congratulations to **William Andes** playing J.V. Basketball.

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!**

Project Updates

Our new **electronic sign** has been received, and we await the completion of the "static" sign before installation (i.e., a traditional sign that will sit above the electronic/programmable sign). The sale of the **Selleck land** was approved by the court in mid-December and we are nearing completion of the transaction. Good things come to those with **patience**; we are getting there!

Childcare For Choir

If anyone is interested in possibly provided childcare (**paid**) for either/both of the weekly practice times (**Thursday** evenings at 7 p.m., **Sunday** mornings at 9 a.m.) please see Rev. Mike.

Share Your Student News!

Shout out and share the word about your kids and grandkids with your church family! Tell us about their involvement with **sports**, **music**, **theater** as well as **academic achievements** and anything else that you to shout out!



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@chur-

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

Church Attendance

	In-Person	Stream	CS
December 3	3 53	44	9
December 1	10 74	36	14
December 1	17 62	38	No CS
December 2	24 44	60	No CS

Average In-Person Attendance: 58 Average Live-Stream Attendance: 45 Average CS Attendance: 12

Treasurer's Report Operating Mission

	- F	
December 3	\$6,749.00	\$ 740.00
December 10	\$4,624.00	\$2,000.00
December 17	\$3,583.00	\$ 200.00
December 24	\$5,400.00	\$1,600.00
Total:	\$20,356.00	\$4,540.00

You Can Help!

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging provides hot, nutritious meals for homebound older adults, many with multiple health conditions, Monday through Friday. Some who are food insecure also receive a weekend meal.

There is a critical need for home delivered meal **drivers** to all of their areas. For many clients, the meal delivery driver is the only social contact they will have all day. This program is a vital lifeline to help them age in place in the comfort of their own homes. Deliveries are made between 10 a.m. and noon.

Home delivered meal drivers receive mileage reimbursement and can pick their own Meal Even a couple of schedule.

hours a month can make a huge differ-If you are looking for a way to ence. make a **meaningful impact** in your community and help improve the quality of life for vulnerable senior citizens. please contact Andrea Montgomery (OFA Director and our CS Director) or the Nutrition Manager, Danielle Durant at (315) 386-4730.

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 Haves 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.

Georgia Vose Christa Lvon Mark Brackett Jane Cable Stacie Olney-LaPierre Susan Akins Jean McGuire Ellen Grayson Moderator Secretary Ray Erickson, Treasurer Ex Officio

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 Haves - 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

Happy New Year One And All!

Well, that was something, huh!?! Christmas, I mean. And then, whoosh, here we are in January! All I can say is *Whew*!

I certainly realize that my own experience of Christmas is somewhat unique due to my profession (i.e., it is a working holiday) so please pepper what I'm about to say with a grain or two of salt. While the message of Christmas is essential to our faith, the appeal of our annual homage to times past (real or imagined) appreciated, and the "Spirit" of Christmas certainly something which

is wonderful and to be cherished, I have to confess that right about now all I can say is, "Whew, glad that is over!"

Not so much in the sense of just having it over and done with, but more in the sense of ar-

riving at this point having gone past it. That is, something like the gift of a clean slate, a fresh start; you know, the whole "New Year" thing. January is a time to look ahead to our future; both in terms of what we hope for it, and what we plan to make of it.

While it is quite true that on my week off between Christmas and New Year's I watched more football and took more naps than most would think is humanly possible, I still managed to find a few quiet moments to consider the future and I was a bit surprised by what I found. Which is, not much; but in a *good* way.

For my entire time in Canton, there has always been something to which I was looking forward; usually right under my nose. For many years the things to which I looked forward were wonderfully small: first steps or words, first day of kindergarten, the arrival of another child, like that. Later, there were bigger things to which I would look forward: high school graduation, kids going off to college, our daughter getting married, seeing all our kids "launched" and off into the world on their own (and off our payroll). Most recently, it has been the completion of the "She Shack." Check, check, double check.

Now, with all of this accomplished, I find myself in the very odd place of considering what is next; or, more accurately, what is it to which I am *now* looking forward, anticipating, striving toward, waiting for, working at? The conclusion I've come to is clear: I'm really not sure!

Which, again, is in no way a bad thing, but it certainly is a new thing; at least to me. It got me to thinking, though, not only about my own future but, more importantly, about the nature of expectation and the role it plays in our lives.

One of the things I keep finding myself saying to young people, is that you are on your way to your future, but your future is also on its way to you. Which is another way of saying that beyond our own expectations, God has expectations for us. I look forward to exploring such expectations with all of you in the coming year.

Here we go! - Rev. Mike

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otball and took

"But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it." - Romans 8:25

Whew!
Now What'!?!

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 10th at 7 p.m. in Lorna's Lounge with the topic of Favorites (What is your favorite holiday, vacation, subject in school, room in your house, etc.). All women of the church are welcome. If you are able to attend, contact Linda Potter at nautilus@twcny.rr.com.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on **Tuesday**, **January 23rd** at 7 p.m. in Lorna's Lounge to discuss **Sugar Queen** by Sarah Addison Allen with the discussion led by **Christy Dekay**. All are welcome.

Upcoming books are:

February 27 - **The Girl You Left Behind** by Jojo Moyes; discussion led by Georgia Vose.

March 26 - **The Measure** by Nikki Erlick; discussion led by Mary Christopher.

April 23 - **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus; discussion led by Linda Potter.

May 28 - **Book To Be Determined!**; discussion led by Ellen Grayson.

Senior Citizen Award

The **St**. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is accepting nominations for **2024 Senior Citizen of the Year**. This award recognizes an individual, age **60** or over and a St. Lawrence County resident, who has tirelessly advocated on behalf of senior citizens. Deadline for receiving nominations is **January 31st**. Official nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the Office for the Aging at 315-386-4730 or **Linda Potter** at 315-229-8886 or nautilus@tweny.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.ChurchOn-ThePark.org and click on "Sunday Zoom Meeting". You will be asked to enter a password which is **3862570** (the phone number of the church). The meeting will automatically begin at 11:30 a.m. & end at 12:45 p.m.

Worship bulletins are posted earlier in the week to the church website for those worshiping virtually through the stream on our YouTube channel. This will allow everyone the opportunity to follow the liturgy, and see the announcements and prayer requests. Go to www.churchOn-ThePark.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").



- 4 Max Athanasakis, Rosie Larson
- 7 Karen McAuliffe, Maria Peacock
- 8 Beth Ann Russell, Emily Ames
- 9 Amanda Peacock
- 10 Jim Robertson, Rosalie Dekay
- 13 Lauren Smith, Kimberly Dildine
- 15 Rance Bell
- 17 Nathan Gibson
- 20 Gerard & Michaela Powers
- 21 Daniel Gordon
- 26 Bob Fraser, Walter Brown
- 28 Charles "Chuck" Alexander
- 30 Ryan McAuliffe
- 31 William Andes



- 4 Rance & Kelly Davis, Jack & Margaret Wylie
- 20 Gerard & Michaela Powers

January Lectionary Readings

Baptism of the Lord - January 7

Genesis 1:1–5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1–7 Mark 1:4–11



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

Sunday, January 14

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20) Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 1 Corinthians 6:12–20 John 1:43–51

Sunday, January 21

Jonah 3:1–5, 10 Psalm 62:5–12 1 Corinthians 7:29–31 Mark 1:14–20

Sunday, January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15–20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 Mark 1:21–28

Saving Grace

For all the beauties of the day,
The innocence of childhood's play,
For health and strength
and laughter sweet,
Dear Lord, our thanks
we now repeat.

For this daily gift of food
We offer now our gratitude,
For all the blessings
we have known
Our debt of gratefulness we own.

Here at the table now we pray, Keep us together down the way; May this, our family circle, be Held fast by love and unity.

Grant, when the shades
of night shall fall,
Sweet be the dreams
of one and all;
And when another day shall break
Unto Thy service may we wake.

CCP Food Pantry

Thanks to our CCP representative **Michelle Theisen** who went shopping in December with the funds from the **Noisy Can** offering and purchased **11** bags of russet potatoes, **16** cans of soup and **4** bags of mandarin oranges for the CCP Food Pantry.

Donations needed at this time for the CCP Food Pantry are **spaghetti sauce** and **bottled fruit juice**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

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

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 $\boldsymbol{Partridge\ Knoll\ service}$ is on

January 3rd and will continue through the winter on the 1st
Wednesday of the month at 11:00
a.m. You are wel-

come to join us!



Like Us On Facebook!

The Church On The Park has a **Face-book page** which changes regularly - https://www.facebook.com/TheFirstPres-byterianChurchonthePark

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@ChurchOn-ThePark.Org.

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

Newsletter Deadline Is The 15th Of The Month

We are still sending out the monthly newsletter! Please submit articles (emailed preferably) to the church office, or directly to the News letter Editor, Linda Potter, at:

nautilus@twcny.rr.com

Hello, my name is...

Remember - Name Tag Sunday is January 21st.

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

Yearly Christmas Giving & Mission Recap

Through our church's Mission Budget and special offerings this year, our congregation has provided around \$10,000 in mission funding in 2023. Some of this was for international work through the denomination, One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering, and the Clint McCoy Feeding Center in Malawi. We fund 25% of the budget for **MINC**, or Ministry In The North Country; a work of our presbytery to rehab houses and help farmers in Jefferson, Lewis, Franklin, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. As it does every year, a sizable portion of our Mission Budget went to the **Church & Community Pro**gram to feed, clothe and tend to those in need here in our own community. We also supported the ministries of several small Presbyterian "sister" churches in our area, and provide funding to help fill their pulpits.

This year, our annual Christmas Giving Program has distributed \$7,800 in monetary gifts to 50 individuals and families primarily in and around Canton, but across the county as well; none of whom asked for any help, but all of whom were sure glad to receive it. Of this amount, \$2,000 went to families with young children, \$2,000 went to farm families, and the balance went to folks with acute need. illness, have suffered an accident or misfortune, or are just struggling hard against very strong currents. The funding for the Christmas Giving Program comes from our monthly Deacon's offering, the Farm Family Offering, and a few additional individual donations. Envelopes are hand-delivered, with either "Merry Christmas" or "Thank you for all your hard work this year" written on the inside of a church note card. Occasionally, in return, we receive a thank you note which is deeply humbling in its earnestness and gratefulness. Begun in

Giving Recap - cont.

2002, over the past **20 years** our annual Christmas Giving Program has provided over **\$139,000** to *hundreds* of families at Christmas.

While the Mission and Christmas giving just described is something our church does *every* year, this past year our church also received a substantial gift to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in the amount of \$30,000. With this our church has provided a cash gift to each of the **50** some people or families seeking shelter

Gíving

families seeking shelter from domestic violence through **Renewal House** this year, is providing **50**

lbs. of ground beef a month for a year to the Church & Community Program's food pantry, purchasing all of the fresh fruits and vegetables for the "Bear Pack" program at Banford elementary for the 2023-2024 school year, has provided funding for an art program for kids through the Canton Free Library, has paid off **dental debt**, helped to provide Christmas gifts to **seniors** through the county's Office For The Aging, helped with college and educational expenses, supported environmental initiatives, provided emergency assistance and, finally, purchased/forgiven the **medical debt** owed by (all) 31 Canton families without health insurance.

Together, this totals about \$47,800 in mission funding *this* year alone. The majority of these gifts have gone to people and programs right here in Canton; but regionally, nationally, and internationally as well. Moreover, all this from a church with an operating budget of only about \$150,000. Which is nothing short of remarkable, I am sure you all would agree.

We are an amazing congregation with glad and generous hearts!









Great thanks to
Andrea Montgomery,
all the kids, and
everyone who helped!
Tons of Fun!!!
A very
Merry Christmas

indeed.















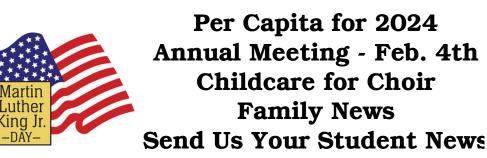
January 2024

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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 Pageant Photos Yearly Christmas Giving & Mission Recap

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.