

First Presby News

SEPTEMBER 2017

First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia, NY

Pastor's Journal

Church Staff:

Pastor	Rev Tom Oak
Clerk of Session	Carla Kinney
Director of Music/Organist	Vince Guarneiri
Treasurer	Craig Buchhout
Church School Coordinator	BJ Palmer
Sexton	Tom Leone
Administrative Assistant	Kristin Schierer

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When I first arrived here about a year ago, the illustrative term most commonly used to describe Cazenovia was “Rockwellian,” which is to suggest that the Village is reminiscence of a Norman Rockwell painting. And no doubt that is true. But – as any artist will tell you – Norman Rockwell did not simply produce one of his masterpieces at a whim. Beneath the surface of each painting is a depth of thought and planning, development and expertise, intentionality and vision that belies the simple joy of first impressions. Over the past twelve months, I’ve had the opportunity to peer a bit beneath the surface image.

I’ve been able to take a longer look at – what would appear at first glance to be – the beautiful portrait of a provincial Northeast American village. And, as I’ve looked more deeply into this work of art, I’ve discovered aspirations which go far beyond the obvious sense of community amongst villagers themselves, to a broader desire for having a bold impact upon the larger

sociopolitical arena. Beneath the colorful veneer, I’ve found a depth of intentionality to be representative of – and in vibrant advocacy for – all that is best about this great nation of ours.

And in the very heart of this Village portrait, I have found the bright smattering of a community of faith: vividly tinted with its resonant values of history and tradition and community involvement; powerfully highlighted by a respect for diversity and rich commitment to authentic love and mutual support.

For me, certainly, this is the glorious focal point of this canvas.

However, there is something else which characterizes this dynamic painting. In the background lies Madison county; a more somber-hued landscape of impoverishment and struggle. Lingering in the margins of this great American portrait there are darker shades of hunger, despair and want. Perhaps it is the two divergent aspects of this portrait which create the truly poignant and lasting impression; one which

demands all the attentive and participatory skills of the viewer who would fully appreciate this masterpiece.

Upon further reflection, perhaps, one might suggest that this is still a work in progress; one which has no hard-edged frame to obstruct further development, and where the primary images of the truth of love and the hope of community are still emerging.

Yours Always in Christ,

Tom

Help is Available!

If you, or someone you know, is in occasional need of help to take care of small items around the house or yard that used to be handled personally, the Deacons would like to offer assistance. If the task is a larger one, we may be able to coordinate efforts of local youth volunteer groups that are looking for community service projects. Please contact one of the Deacons personally or call the church office at 655-3191.

From the Music Director



WOW! What a whirlwind of a summer! It seems like only a couple of days ago I was laying out the summer music season. Although we're still a few weeks away from the official

start of fall, my thermometer says it's on the way. I'd like to thank all the summer performers who did an awesome job this year! Kicking off the summer: Lorin Hunt, despite the church losing power during the service and having to play the piano instead of the organ, impressed the congregation with his playing. Kathy Knoff and I had a lot of fun with some piano duets, thanks Kathy! Nathan Schierer played for us the following week-great job Nate! Sharye Skinner and Leigh Garber sang for us next, resurrecting an old-time favorite: "In the Sweet By and By". Michael Guarneiri was up at the end of July with some of his yearly piano pieces. Wonderful job

Michael!

Kicking off August, Cathy Wheat visited and shared her music with Caz once again. Thanks, as always Cathy! Next, the KCs: (aptly named because all have a name starting with K and/or C) did a beautiful job on a choir favorite- Alleluia by Jay Althouse. Thanks ladies! We had some changes in plans later in August, so Tom and I jumped in with some more contemporary music by Matt Maher. Thanks Tom! As I write, this past week I filled in and Katie Ball is up with a vocal solo for our final "Summer" Sunday on September 3rd.

In other summer news, we finally received our new choir cabinet, you may have noticed. Finally we have a nice clean, closed place to put all those odds and ends kicking around the choir room. Thanks to Roseanne for helping me organize it all! Speaking of the choir room, we're up next for some light renovation. A troop of helpful folks will be taking out the carpet and shifting some old furniture

around to free up some space. Would you pray with me the prayer of carpet removal? "Dear Lord, please let the nails and staples easily release their solid grasp on our beautiful hard wood floor and may the finish be everything we hope." I jest, but hopefully we won't have too much refinishing to do. We hope that this really improves the acoustic in the room, as it's pretty dismal right now. Worst case, we put a rug or carpet back down. More to come!

We have a couple more weeks before the Senior Choir is back. We'll start singing again on September with a short rehearsal beforehand. Bell and Senior Choir rehearsals will get going again later in September. Thanks again to all for a wonderful summer, and I'm looking forward to making more music with you in the fall!
God Bless,

Vince Guarneiri

**SENIOR CHOIR
STARTS BACK UP
ON SEPTEMBER
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SERVICE.**

Outreach Update

Late spring and early summer have been busy for your Outreach Committee. Funding of \$1,500 was given to the Korean Church of Syracuse Boaz Project. This Presbyterian Church reaches out to refugee families to provide computer literacy training. This creative approach to spreading the word of Christ also provides skills needed for many employment opportunities.

We also supported Young Lives Experience, an offshoot of Young Life, which provides mentors to teen mothers so that they can become self-sufficient. The goal is to also instill

the knowledge that God has a plan for them and their children. Outreach funded one scholarship to the camp program (\$500) and another \$500 of discretionary financial support to the overall program.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, 65 hygiene kits were assembled, and Outreach Committee voted to provide \$130 to ship the kits.

Other donations that have been made are: \$200 to the Cazenovia High School "After the Prom" party, \$1,000 to Project Hope for Children (an international organization that provides baby items to abandoned

children), funding for Vandercamp to replace two water fountains, funding for 4 youths to attend Madison County Children's Camp, and our annual donations to DeRuyter Food Pantry and Clear Path for Veterans.

Remember that the school supply drive for Caz Cares is currently underway. Many thanks to congregants for continuing to support this and all of our endeavors to do the work of Christ in our local and world-wide communities.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

Linda Peters and Patricia Johnson

Sunday School Schedule

September 3--Final Day of Summer Sunday School

September 10--Welcome back -Fall Sunday School

September 17--Regular Sunday School

September 24 --Regular Sunday School

Many thanks to Sharye Skinner for another wonderful Summer Sunday School program. The children certainly enjoyed learning more about Jesus' disciples.

The Fall semester of Sunday School will start on September 10th. We will once again be using the Whirl Lectionary curriculum from Sparkhouse. This fall will be studying the parables in Matthew. The CE committee is always looking for people to help with activities or teaching. Please contact BJ Palmer.



Rachel Schierer poses with her finished Summer Sunday School project on the 12 Disciples. Thanks for the great summer Sharye!

Trustee's Update

The Trustees have been very busy this year working on maintaining our church and grounds. Some of our recent projects have included:

- New Workroom Enhancements, including a new leased color copier, removal of some of the old cabinetry, removal of the old carpet which exposed the beautiful wood flooring, installation of a new area rug and a fresh coat of paint have really livened up the Workroom. New lighting will also be added to finish this project up.
- Fresh landscaping has recently been completed around the Sanctuary and Meeting House.
- A new railing along the handicap ramp has been added to the rear entrance door of the Meeting House.
- Various projects have been completed around the Church and Meeting House to help keep water and moisture out.

Some of our upcoming projects include the following:

- Exterior painting of our church is an annual work task which needs to be regularly done to keep our sanctuary freshly painted and looking beautiful. This year's painting will begin at the end of September.
- To go along with the Workroom updates, we will start looking at improving the Choir Room. The first task will be to remove the old carpeting to expose the wood flooring. A future fresh coat of paint for the Choir Room is also being evaluated.
- Prior to the Fall/Winter season we will also be installing new Smart Thermostats in the Choir Room and Meeting House to go along with the Smart Thermostat which is in the Sanctuary. These devices should help us save energy on heating and allow us to preheat spaces at the church by remote command prior to

planned church activities.

The Big news is that the long, anticipated Pass Through Project is getting closer to reality...come to the Town Hall meeting on September 24th, immediately after the service to see what this exciting new project is all about!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PASS THROUGH PROJECT AT THE TOWN HALL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 24TH

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our Nation and our World

Prayer for peaceful resolution to growing racial/ethnic tensions and violent protests currently occurring in our nation. Prayers for the families of those killed or injured in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Prayers for those who died or were displaced in the Sierra Leone mudslide. Prayers for stability on the Korean Peninsula and among concerned nations

Prayers for those who were killed or injured in the USS McCain collision.

Prayers for those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

In our Presbytery's Cycle of Prayer

Please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: Northminster, North Syracuse; Onondaga Hill; Faith United Church of Oswego; Presbyterian Church of Otisco; New Hope, Parish

In our Congregation's Circle of Concern

Joan De Frees' mother, Cecelia M. White, passed away on August 22nd. Please keep Joan and her family in your prayers

Continuing Prayers

To ensure that our prayer list stays current, prayers will be listed for 4 weeks. If you have a prayer concern that you would like to continue longer than that, please notify the office.

Bonnie Arnold (Nancy Loffredo's sister)

Mark Bell (friend of Kevin Curtis)

Brian Ball (brother of Bruce Ball)

Ann Harries (mother of Susan Grills)

Evonne Jones (friend of Patricia Johnson)

Kate Kegans (cousin of Leigh Garber)

Sheri-Anne Mitchell (daughter of Barbara & Raymond)

Katherine Neuman (daughter of Linda & Mark Peters)

Family of Nancy Nichols (wife of Richard)

Family of Carol Porter (wife of Bill)

Ed Phillips (Uncle of Kristin Schierer)

Brooke Phillips (Cousin of Kristin Schierer)

Charlie Poole (student of Shelly Brooks)

Family and Friends of Marjorie Robbins

Bob and Bev Thorp (friends of Roseanne Courtade)

Annette Tuttle (niece of Dick Tuttle)

Jan Anthony Vinopal (grandson of Jana Laxa)

Family of Richard White

Marion York

Schedule of Events

- 9/3 Guest Minister: Bill Porter
- 9/3 CE Meeting 11:15a
- 9/4 Labor Day: Office Closed
- 9/9 Buckhout/Cable Wedding
- 9/10 Sunday School begins
- 9/10 Choir begins
- 9/10 Evangelism & Fellowship 11:15a
- 9/10 Potluck Dinner 5p
- 9/12 Worship & Music 6p
- 9/13 Men's Breakfast 7:30a
- 9/14 Blood Drive 1-6p
- 9/17 Deacons meeting 11:15
- 9/18 Session 6:30p
- 9/18 Trustees 7pm
- 9/20 Alice Edwards Circle
- 9/24 Town Hall Meeting

Pot Luck Dinner



The evangelism and Fellowship committee invites you to join us for a pot luck dinner on Sunday **September 10th, at 5 p.m.** in the Meeting House! A sign up sheet is posted in the Meeting House, or you can contact the church office - please sign up to bring your favorite casserole, side dish, salad or dessert. The Fellowship Committee will provide a variety of beverages, including wine. We look forward to seeing you there!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is in touch with presbyteries affected areas of Texas to offer assistance. We are standing by with resources and National Response Team members ready to deploy upon invitation and when it is safe to do so.

For those who wish to support PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, gifts can be designated to DR000169-Harvey online at <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169/>

We need your help. Please give generously.

If you prefer to mail a check, you may send it to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You may also call us Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST), at 1-800-872-3283 and donate by phone.

For updates, please go to pda.pcusa.org.

Please join us in praying for courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we respond to the deep human needs left in the wake of the storm.

Rev. Dr. Laurie Ann Kraus
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

2017 Lodi Summer Camp - VBS for Refugee Children

Lodi Summer Camp, the yearly VBS camp organized by the Korean Church of Syracuse for refugee children in the area, took place at Cornerstone Christian Church this past June. This year, we had an even greater number of staff involved and there was a deeper meaning to be found.

This year, we had a total of 181 children participating in the camp, which was the highest number that we've had so far. Through this year's Lodi Summer Camp, children from Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Liberia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Korea and USA were able to hear the Gospel, make crafts in art class and enjoy outdoors games together. As a result, we've reached out to a total of 36 countries at the moment.

God also rewarded us with another great blessing this year. All of the staff members who took part were able to strongly experience the grace of God through the presence of the Holy Spirit. In particular, witnessing the junior staff members, children 6 - 13, participate in all of the training and orientation, prayer and worship and planning meetings was especially powerful and a special grace to all those who were involved. Though they may be young in age, we were able to witness how God truly

loves children and uses them for His Kingdom work. One of the core pillars of Lodi mission is that we use "them-to-them" method to share the Gospel. In the past, this concept was understood mostly in terms of nationality and people groups as we encouraged refugees who received the Gospel through our ministries to share it with other people from their nations. However, this year we saw this "them-to-them" ministry through an entirely new lens as our junior staff members as young as 7 years old were sitting down and sharing the Gospel to their peers that they met during camp. They were sharing the good news that they had learned to other kids their age who did not know Christ. The Gospel was now being shared across nationalities and within similar age groups. We were all deeply moved at this sight and we all felt the presence of the Holy Spirit working through these children. This is the image of a true faith community. These are the tears of God that we have been given. Everyone who took part worked very hard.

Please remember that none of your work in the Lord is in vain! We give all

the glory to our God who has started and fulfilled it all.

This is how we have worked for God's Great Commission in this place. God invited us to His great work for salvation and gave us wonderful opportunity to serve Him.

As a missional church, our church has served our community and neighbors who come from all nations, and we hope to serve continuously.

The generous mission fund from First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia was used for this refugee ministry. We thank God for providing financial support through this church. Also, we thank First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia for their support.

We welcome the churches that want to join us for God's Great Commission. Also, we welcome any individual or church who would like to support us financially.

Please pray and support for us to continue this ministry next year.

Thank you for your prayer.

Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Yong Ju Jee
Senior Pastor
Korean Church of Syracuse

First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia, NY

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Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 2

Upcoming Activities

Alice Edwards Circle

Noon, Wednesday, September
20, 2017
Meeting House

Hostesses: Barb Favro, Mary
Gates, with Virginia Salmon
Program: Vignettes
Presenters: AEC members

Please bring a smile, a sandwich,
and a personal care product for
CazCares.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

Thursday, Sept. 14th

1-6pm

Meeting House

Men's Breakfast

7:30 a.m. July 12th

Meeting House

All men are welcome to
gather for breakfast and
discussion.

