



# News From The Heart

NOVEMBER 2017

**First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia, NY**

In the Heart of the Village since 1799

## Pastor's Journal

### Church Staff:

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

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Family, friends, church, country – these are the gilded-edged chapters in the book of November. It is a month to be written in the runes of rich tradition and nostalgic memories.

One of my fondest pages to reread each year is Thanksgiving Dinner at Mom and Dads. Mom loved the holidays. The whole house would reflect the glorious palate of nature. The living room was adorned with baskets of pinecones and musky potpourri. Ceramic pilgrims stood sentinel on the fireplace mantel amongst baleful pumpkins and buttery gourds.

Mom would set a bountiful table of turkey dinner with all the trimmings. She would break out her gold-rimmed china, sterling silverware and crystal wine glasses, and treat her family as honored guests. At the end of the evening, we would all go home filled to the brim and overflowing; and with care baskets of left-overs for future feasts to boot.

Even when Mom became so ill toward the end of her life, we did all we could to honor that tradition and return the long-standing favor by bringing a traditional turkey dinner to the

hospital, or the nursing home, or the rehab center – wherever Mom had to be at the time, that was where our family Thanksgiving would take place.

I miss my mother, and those special times as family. But perusing those gentle memories still warm the heart when November winds threaten to chill.

One November, a few years before she passed away, my mother sent me an email, which has ever since been my prologue to the season of Thanksgiving. The story, anonymously written as far as I know, is called: “I Wish You Enough”. I share it with you to, perhaps, be chronicled within your own heart, that you might always remember what it means to be truly grateful.

*“Recently, in an airport, I overheard a father and daughter in their last moments together. They had announced her departure and standing near the security gate, they hugged and he said, “I love you. I wish you enough.” She, in turn, said, “Daddy, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough,*

## Pastor's Journal—Continued

too, Daddy.”

*They kissed and she left. He walked over toward the window where I was seated. Standing there I could see he wanted and needed to cry. I tried not to intrude on his privacy, but he welcomed me in by asking, “Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be forever?”*

*“Yes, I have,” I replied. Saying that brought back memories I had of expressing my love and appreciation for all my Dad had done for me. Recognizing that his days were limited, I took the time to tell him, face to face, how much he meant to me. So I knew what this man was experiencing.*

*“Forgive me for asking, but why is this a ‘forever’ good-bye?” I asked.*

*“I am old and she lives much too far away,” he said. “I have challenges ahead, and the reality is that her next trip back will be for my funeral.”*

*So I asked him, “When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, ‘I wish you enough’. May I ask what that means?”*

*He began to smile. “That’s a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone.” He paused for a moment, and looking up as if trying to remember it in detail, he smiled even more.*

*“When we said, ‘I wish you enough,’ we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them,” he continued, and then turning toward me, he shared*

*the following as if he were reciting it from memory.*

*“I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright. I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more. I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive. I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger. I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting. I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess. I wish you enough ‘Hello’s’ to get you through the final ‘Good-bye’.”*

*Then he began to sob, and walked away.*

*My friends, I wish you enough!”*

May God so bless each of us with more than ‘enough,’ during this season of Thanksgiving and always.

Love,

*Tom*



## Outreach Update

With all the horrific events that have recently affected various parts of the world—and our own nation--, the Outreach Committee thoughtfully discussed at our October meeting how our church can best use its funds to help those who need it most. We decided to support the worthy efforts of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program by donating \$2,000, with half of these funds designated to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and half to be utilized wherever PDA deems the need is the greatest.

On a more local level, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the following donations have been made: \$500 to The Mustard

Seed, whose mission is to assist low-income people who aren't helped by other agencies; \$500 to Unity Acres, which aids local homeless men; \$300 to the CNY Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation for their Bags of Hope which are distributed to children newly diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes; \$2,000 to CazCares.

We hope our fellow congregants have been enjoying the lovely autumn (summer?) weather and the seasonal beauty that surrounds us at this time in Central New York.

Patricia Johnson and Linda Peters  
Co-Chairs  
Outreach Committee

## Christmas Wreaths and Flowers

You're invited to contribute toward the beautification of our sanctuary, by filling out this form. Your dedication will be included in the worship bulletin prior to Christmas. Poinsettia plants will be gifted post-holiday to congregants in need of cheer! Thank you for your consideration.



DONOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of this blessed season: \_\_\_\_\_

In the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo "Flowers."

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Cazenovia, NY**

27 Albany Street  
PO BOX 306  
Cazenovia, NY 13035  
Phone: (315) 655-3191  
E-mail:caz1stpresby@windstream.net

## From The Music Director



We've had an exciting fall so far in the music department at Caz Pres. It's hard to believe that November is almost here already! The Jubilate choir got started on October 8th with a record number of kids joining us to ring, at least since I've been with you. We

had eleven kids for our first rehearsal. I'm eager to see where this group ends up with its new found energy! Once we get everyone up to speed, we'll be ready to share with the congregation.

The adult bell choir is also off to a rousing start! We've had a really good turn-out for early in the season, and we're looking forward to playing for the Sunday service in early November. Thanks,

ringers for your time commitment every week!

We're looking forward to having Piper Jack Heins back with us for Reformation Sunday on October 29th. Jack always enjoys coming to visit us at Caz Pres, and we love having him!

Looking a little farther down the line to December- can you believe we're thinking about Christmas already!? The Cazenovia Christmas walk is early this year on December 1st. Mary Coburn and her string ensemble will provide music for the visitors to our church after the tree lighting.

Finally, mark your calendars: December 17th is our annual "Christmas in Brass" service. Nathan Kaercher and Pat Carney will be joining us for this special Service. More to come as we get closer!

## Sunday School

### Sunday School Calendar

November 5---Regular Sunday School  
 November 12--Regular Sunday School  
 November 19--Packing Shoe boxes  
 November 26--Group Sunday for making props

### Operation Christmas Child

The Sunday School is sponsoring Operation Christmas Child this month. We will be collecting shoe boxes to send to Samaritan Purse who will forward to children around the world. It is easy as 1-2-3 to pack a shoe box.

1. Get a standard size shoe box (Plastic shoe box is a good idea since the child can then reuse it)
2. Select a wow toy such as a doll, ball or stuffed animal
3. Fill with other fun toys, hygiene item and school supplies

\*\*Do not include candy or food, used items, war items such as guns or knives and items that have liquids or glass

4. Pray for the child. Include a personal note and

photo if you would like.

5. Include a \$9.00 donation to cover shipping costs (Please make this out Samaritan's Purse)
6. Bring your Shoe box to church by November 19

The congregation is encouraged to pack their own shoe boxes, bring items that can be included in the shoe boxes that the Sunday School will pack on November 19 or contribute money ( please note Samaritan Purse on the memo)



### Christmas Pageant

The Sunday School will present our annual pageant during the service on December 10. This year's pageant is "Just a Little Christmas" by Sharon Kay Chatwell. The children will practice during Sunday School. The Dress Rehearsal is on December 9 at 10:00. Please mark your calendar and join us at this special service....we promise charming angels, adorable shepherds and very cute animals.

## Trustee's Update

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

- To go along with the recent Workroom and Pastor's Office 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 Trustees are also working on developing an inventory of projects to help with future planning efforts. If you have a project in mind, please pass on your ideas to a Trustee

member so that we can include it in our overall list. Our goal is to identify future projects, estimate the cost of projects, determine their need and assign a priority to help us budget for future investments for our Church campus.

- Since our September 24<sup>th</sup> Town Hall meeting on the Pass Through Project, we have been talking with select contractors and are getting closer to selecting a contractor to perform the project. We hope to get this project underway this fall.

Also as a reminder to all congregation members and/or church committees: to keep track of all the duties that are asked of our Sexton, we are reminding everyone that if you need help with a task involving the Sexton, we request that you ask a Trustee member first, so that we can review the task and help coordinate the work request into the Sexton's schedule. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## From the Mailbag—Susan Alloway

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My Dear sweet friends,

I sit in a sort of daze, looking out at my sister's morning glories, and try to find the words to tell you how deeply your thoughtfulness touches me. My connection to what I call "Evans' Church" run deep, from the summer internship I served in 1992 all the way through pastoral care off and on, helping out Mark and Steve, and then enjoying the beautiful friendships Evans and I had with so many of you. But never have I known how deep those ties run until I hold in my hand this extraordinary "Starting Over" gift. This gift will enable me to purchase furniture and replace treasured books. It will help in countless ways I don't yet know. Perhaps the greatest way it helps is to remind me of all of you,

and our work and play together, and what extraordinarily generous friends I have.

Although I will be sorting out my options for weeks to come, it does look as though I will not be returning to Rockport. Through all these days it has become increasingly clear to me that I want to live near family, not a plane ride away, but a drive away. Which will mean either Austin, where my brother and sister live, or some town near my son and grandson, who themselves are considering a move in the next few months. In the end, it's people that matter most, and I am blessed to have good choices. Thank you all for being such a kind and loving part of my journey.

Many Blessings, Susan.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

### In our Nation and our World

Continued prayers for hurricane and earthquake victims.

Pray for the victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

Prayers for those effected by the fires in California.

Prayers for soldiers killed and wounded in the Niger Ambush.

### In our Presbytery

Please pray for following congregations and faith communities of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse: our Presbytery (the Leadership Team, Work Groups, Committees, and Mission and Ministry Teams), the Synod of the Northeast, General Assembly staff.

### Hospitalization

Roseanne Courtade remains in the hospital as they assess her brain bleeds and swelling. Please keep Roseanne and Gerry in your prayers.

### In our Congregation's Circle of Concern

*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 note that on a prayer card, or notify the office.*

Susan Alloway

Brian Ball (Bother of Bruce Ball)

Elaine Allen (Mother of Matt Allen)

Linda Beswick (Mother of Deanna Allen)

Marriages and Families in our church

Friends and Family of Helen R. Ifflander (Nancy Loffredo's Mother)

Nancy Loffredo

## Schedule of Events

Sun Nov 5	Korean Mission Co-workers Speaking Christian Ed Meeting
Wed Nov 8	Men's Breakfast
Thu Nov 9	Blood Drive
Mon Nov 13	Trustees Session Meeting
Tue Nov 14	Staff Meeting Worship and Music Meeting
Wed Nov 15	Alice Edwards Circle
Sun Nov 19	Deacons Meeting Fellowship Meeting
Mon Nov 20	Newsletter Deadline
Wed Nov 22	Office Closed
Thu Nov 23	Office Closed
Fri Nov 24	Office Closed
Sun Nov 26	Ronald McDonald Cooking

### 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.

## Mission Co-Workers from Korea to visit November 5th

Issues involving the United States and the Korean peninsula continue to grab media headlines and our PC(USA) mission co-workers from South Korea, Rev. Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee, are coming to First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia on Sunday, November 5 to participate in worship and talk about their ministries in these challenging times. There will be a half-hour presentation after the worship service.

During our time together, they will share the story of their ministry

- \* with PCUSA Young Adult Volunteers assigned to Korea,
- \* with migrant women and women peace activists around Korea, and
- \* with the National Council of Churches of

Korea where Kurt serves as a resource person in their Reconciliation and Unification Department. NCCK maintains a relationship with the Korean Christian Federation of North Korea and advocates for the respectful and peaceful reconciling of the ongoing Korean conflict.



Kurt and Hyeyoung are excellent interpreters of current events in Korea as well as the history of Korea, particularly concerning the role the US played, and continues to play, in that history; and they look forward to this opportunity for dialogue with members and friends of the church.

## Women's Association

The holidays will be upon us before we know it. Time to start thinking about the Women's Association Annual Christmas Walk Soup and Dessert Café. This will take place during the Cazenovia Christmas Walk on Friday December 1st.



Early November during coffee hour, after church, there will be sign-ups for the following items:

- soups of all kinds
- loaves of different types of artisan breads
- desserts
- volunteers to help in the kitchen
- volunteers to work as cashiers

This major fund raiser supports our scholarship fund. Through this scholarship fund we have been able to give money to 2 graduating seniors from our church. Please sign up to donate items or volunteer to work at this event.

## First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia, NY

27 Albany Street  
PO BOX 306  
Cazenovia, NY 13035



Phone: (315) 655-3191  
E-mail: [caz1stpresby@windstream.net](mailto:caz1stpresby@windstream.net)

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## Upcoming Events

### Alice Edwards Circle

Noon, Wed., November 15  
Meeting House

Hostesses: Diane Campbell,  
Diane Phillips

Program: "Cooking with  
Janet"

Presenter: Jan McCobb



### American Red Cross

### Blood Drive

Thursday,  
November 9th,  
1-6pm

### Men's Breakfast

7:30 a.m. November 8th  
Meeting House

All men are welcome to  
gather for breakfast and  
discussion

