

First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia

October 2016 Newsletter

THE PASTOR'S JOURNAL

OCTOBER, being the month of All Hallows' Eve – and all things creepy-crawly – I thought it appropriate to share with you my “Spider Theology.” Its origins (based on a true story when we lived in Wichita, Kansas), began as retold below:

A couple of weeks ago, I came home one evening to find the garage door open and Diane in a bit of a tizzy. With large broom in hand, she was standing warily in the driveway by the garage entrance. When I rolled down the car window and looked at her as if to say, “What’s going on?” Diane informed me, “When I moved the trash bin, a *huge* spider crawled out and came *right at me!*”

Now, normally, my wife is an extremely capable gal . . . except where spiders are concerned; then all of her fierce independence and women’s lib goes right out the window. After duly inspecting every corner of the garage (while Diane stood in the yard with her broom) I declared it a ‘spider-free’ zone. “But where did it go?” Diane insisted. “Oh, it probably crawled back under the house,” I said. That thought did not comfort.

All of that then reminded me of something that happened a few years ago, when I had – what you might call – a *Very Spider Sunday*.

It began during the morning worship service. As I was leading the congregation through the Prayer of Confession, a teensy weensy spider crawled diagonally across my bulletin and strolled directly through the prayer we were saying together, from the right margin to the left (must have been a Hebrew spider). As I recall, I may have even mentioned it during the Assurance of Pardon. Then, just a few moments later, as Brigitte read the day’s Scripture passage, I lifted my pew Bible to find, apparently, a cousin of the first spider, dangling precipitously upon a slender thread from the center binder.

That one definitely got my attention.

That very night, Diane and I attended the last performance of *Les Miserables*, with the incomparable Nick Saverine (who had graced our own sanctuary with his glorious gift of song just the previous Sunday) in the lead role. Upon returning home, about 10:30 p.m. or so, as I pulled into the driveway, pushed the button for the garage door opener and began to pull in, Diane yells, “Stop...*STOP!*”, which I dutifully did just at the edge of the garage door. “Look!” she points at the front windshield. And there, perched in the middle of a few long strands of web strung from the eaves of the roof to the pavement, was yet another – this time much larger – spider barring our way into the garage.

Apparently Diane’s long war against spiders had reached a moment of *détente*.

Thus, being the good Christian pacifists we are, we sat there in the driveway for several minutes debating what to do. “You can’t just drive through it!” Diane protested. “It’s his home.”

“Yeah, well it’s my home, too,” I reminded her.

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Finally, after determining that there was nothing left for it but to push ahead, we did so ... albeit very, very slowly. The bottom anchor of the web severed by my front bumper, the top half floated wistfully in the breeze, while the spider scurried up it and disappeared safely (if somewhat disgruntled) into the rafters.

At that point, the recurring theme of spiders was getting kind of hard to ignore.

But, now, here's where it really gets interesting.

The very next evening, as I pulled into the driveway at the end of a long day, a spider (presumably the same spider) had again made his – this time quite a bit more developed – web once more in front of the garage door. And even though the web had been spun a few feet off to one side this time, unfortunately, I still could not avoid disrupting his persistent efforts. "Some spiders got no brains," I muttered as I drove into *my* garage.

Now, are you ready for this? The next night ... you guessed it ... that same spider cast yet another elongated web from gable to ground. But *this* time the spider had made his web far enough to the side so that I could move my car into the garage without disrupting his hard day's work.

The upshot of it all is, I suppose I don't mind sharing the corner of my house for Mr. Spider's home if he doesn't mind me using my own garage to house my car.

Live and let live, I always say.

But, it really left me kind of pondering what God might be trying to say through all these arachnoid encounters.

After much thought, here's what I've come up with ...

These are Lessons from the Spider ...

First: Ambling idly through Sunday morning liturgy is probably alright if you can somehow keep yourself firmly attached to God's Holy Word.

(Okay, okay ... bear with me now, I'm just getting started.)

Second: It takes a whole lot of courage and no small degree of faith to spin a web in a risky new location (Like that one better?).

I was processing this spidey experience with my nephew Joseph (a huge Spiderman buff), when he asked me, "How do spiders *start* their web?"

"Well, I think they just shoot out that first strand," I answered. "You know, some spiders can shoot a really long way."

Now, I'm not at all positive that that's true ... but as reigning Uncle Tommy, I didn't want to admit that I really had no earthly idea. But it makes perfect sense, don't you think? A spider has to launch an initial strand from one far reach to another, to then climb bravely out onto that slender thread to establish itself and begin building its web. It must take a tremendous amount of spider-type faith to move courageously out onto one tenuous thread flung into the dark void with the single hope of creating a new place for oneself in the wide world. To keep building and rebuilding, day after day, convinced by some deep inner spider-sense that your God-given destiny is to boldly build new webs, regardless of hazard or setback.

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I began to feel an increasing sense of respect – and awe – for my garage cohabitant's persistence, as he refused to get discouraged ... instead just kept tweaking his design and location until, at last, it proved viable and sacrosanct.

Now, if God places such ingenuity, patience, imagination and dogged perseverance in such a wee creature as my spider tenant, how much more shall God give such good gifts to His people ... Oh, ye of little faith?

At any rate, I'm still processing the experience and working out the details of my Spider-Theology. And if you have any suggestions or insights, please feel free to share. Perhaps we can simply suffice it to say, at this point, that God has a plan – a divine plan – for all God's creatures, big and small. Just as the spider's destiny is to spin his web, our destiny, as God's children and followers of Jesus Christ, is to build His Church. And God will not allow us to fail in that grand and glorious endeavor, no matter what the risks.

Although we may need to try and try again, tweaking our design as we go along.

And To God be the Glory!

Love,

Tom

Friendship Brunch – October 30th

October 30th is Reformation Sunday, which means that it's time to renew the Cazenovia Presbyterian tradition of gathering our Congregation to share a meal after worship! The Evangelism & Fellowship Committee will again host this brunch, providing scrambled eggs, pancakes and sausage. We ask that others consider bringing a dish of fruit, sweetbreads or other brunch item to share.

Providing a dish is optional, and there's no need to make a reservation with Treva. We hope to have an excellent turnout for some good food and great fellowship!

Kristin is in the process of updating the church website, and is looking for some new pictures. If you have any pictures of the church or church activities/fellowship that you wouldn't mind being on the website, please email them to her at kschierer@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Alice Edwards Circle</u> | Meeting: October 19th @ noon | ~Board Room |
| <u>Board of Deacons:</u> | Meeting: October 16th @ 11:15 a.m. | ~Library |
| <u>Board of Trustees:</u> | Meeting: October 17th @ 6:30 p.m. | ~ Work Room |
| <u>Christian Education:</u> | Meeting: October 2nd @ 11:15 | ~Wendell House |
| <u>Evangelism & Fellowship:</u> | Meeting: October 30th @ 11:15 | ~ Work Room |
| <u>Flower Committee:</u> | Meeting: October 16th @ 11:15 | ~Board Room |
| <u>Friendship Brunch:</u> | October 30th @ 11:15 a.m. | ~Meeting House |
| <u>Men's Breakfast</u> | October 12th @ 7:30 a.m. | ~Meeting House |
| <u>Newsletter Deadline:</u> | October 20th! | |
| <u>Outreach:</u> | Meeting: October 16th @ 11:15 a.m. | ~Board Room |
| <u>Session:</u> | Meeting: October 17th @ 7:15 p.m. | ~Meeting House |
| <u>Worship & Music Committee:</u> | Meeting: October 11th @ 6:00 p.m. | ~Work Room |

Alice Edwards Circle

Next Meeting:

October 19th @ Noon

Meeting House

Hostesses— Donna Denison

Diane Phillips

Candy (Riley) ~ dessert

Program— Therapy Dogs

Dee Schaefer

Wanderer's Rest Humane Association

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

Flower Committee Annual Meeting

Current and prospective members are invited and encouraged to attend our brief, annual meeting.

We will set our schedule for 2017, chat about current and future plans, and commit to a team approach for this year's Christmas activities and care of plants.

Date: October 16th @ 11:15

Location: Work Room





Sunday School News

Sunday School Schedule for October

October 2- Regular Sunday School, children return to service for communion

October 9- Regular Sunday School

October 16- Regular Sunday School, building scarecrows

October 23- Regular Sunday School

October 30- Regular Sunday School

New Curriculum for Sunday School

This fall we are introducing a new curriculum for our children. Whirl Lectionary is an on-line curriculum published by Spark House. It offers a multi-level program that is based on lectionary readings each week. We are excited about many of the features including videos and a song book. Courtney Guarneiri and Shelly Brooks are teaming up to lead the younger students. Shelly is also teaching the children many new songs. BJ Palmer is teaching the older class but would love to share the duty with a parent. All the lessons are easy to follow and our children are wonderful.

Fall Festival In Cazenovia

October 22nd will be a celebration of the Autumn and the Christian Education Committee will participate in the fun. Our children will build scarecrows to enter into the contest. We will also offer free mini doughnuts, cider and lawn games at the Wendell House from 9:00- 12:00. Come join the fun.



To the gentlemen of the membership and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia:

This is an open invitation from Candy (Riley), as suggested by a member of the formerly active Men's Breakfast Group, to gather together for an informal meeting to re-energize the Men's Breakfast Group! The gathering will take place on Wednesday, October 12th, at 7:30 a.m., in the Meeting House. A direction for the group and its "mission/purpose" will be discussed and brainstorming will help discern that "mission/purpose/direction!"

So bring your ideas and a not-so-hungry self to enjoy fellowship over coffee and crumpets! (Candy says she will "bake up a storm" for you guys! She is counting on you being there!)



Calling all potential choir members! We need your help!

Without volunteer members, our music program suffers. Our most urgent need is for ringers to play in The Sounds of Chimes adult bell choir. Because of the nature of how the bells are played, we cannot play for a service unless we have enough ringers to cover all the bells. Right now we are consistently short 2-3 ringers. Bells don't take any prior musical knowledge and its okay to make mistakes!

The sounds of chimes meets at 6:30 every Thursday for an hour. Please consider giving bells a try! As always, we also would welcome any Senior Vocal Choir and Jubilate Choir members! We are in need of a few more men to support our tenor and bass parts. If you sing in the shower, or even if you don't, we'd love to have you. The ability to sight-read is helpful but not a must. We review all the vocal parts individually every week, so even if you sing by ear, you'll be able to pick it up. Senior Vocal Choir meets on Thursdays also, for an hour starting at 7:30 PM- but still not for much longer, so a good time to try it out!

If you or your child are interested in joining any group, please come to a rehearsal drop me a line at vincent@cnyorganist.com

Many Thanks,

Vince Guarneiri

Cazenovia's Fall Festival– Saturday, October 22nd

Village wide vendors, musicians, games, and contests.

Stay tuned for more information and updates.....

Like our page on facebook and find us on Instagram and twitter (@cazpresby) for weekly updates, photos, news, and discussions. Reverend Oak's sermons will be posted in full each week on Facebook!



Outreach Update

Linens, Pillows, and Diapers!!!

The Outreach Committee is starting a new drive to help our neighbors in southern Madison and northern Chenango Counties as well as Cazenovia, Canastota, and Oneida. These are all areas served by The Mustard Seed, which is located in Georgetown. The Mustard Seed is a food pantry but also provides its clients with gently used clothes and linens as well as a host of other necessities. They even have a library and reading room with free internet. This wonderful organization is staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers and is run by Veronica Huftalen.

At their request, the Outreach Committee, with the approval of Session, has decided to hold a one-month drive for diapers, pillows, and new or gently used bed linens. For the month of October, we hope the congregation will consider contributing generously to this worthy cause. So grab a box of diapers the next time you're at the grocery store or pharmacy; or buy a pillow at Walmart or Target (both stores sell them for under \$5)! Clean out your linen closet by donating that almost new set of sheets you bought but never liked! These items will mean so much to those who struggle to get these basic necessities.

If you have any questions about The Mustard Seed and the work they do there, ask Carla Kinney.

Thank you, as always, for your generous spirit,

Linda Peters and Patricia Johnson
Outreach Committee



Blessing of the Animals for St. Francis Day

Saturday October 1st @ Noon

In front of The 1st Presbyterian Church

Bring a photo of your pet or your actual pet!

Sponsored by 1st Presbyterian, Common Grounds, and St. Peter's

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friendship Inn really needs Volunteers to prepare, serve, and tidy on Monday nights. We provide a free, balanced meal and cheerful companionship to all attending. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer, please email me or call 315-655-2860. Donations for Friendship Inn can be sent to Summit Church, P. O. Box 250, Cazenovia, NY 13035.

Thanks, Deb Wilcox (deb@cazmail.com)

Among Our People...



In our nation and around the world



If you have a name to share, please contact the church office (655-3191).

Those whose lives were disrupted or destroyed by the terrorists' attacks which happened on this day 15 years ago.

Victims of recent storms across the United States.

People in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, the Philippines, and other nations torn by war and strife.

The men and women stationed throughout the world in service to our country; especially Fritz Koennecke III (son of Fritz Jr. & Elizabeth) and Matt Shane (son of Janet Furco).

In the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse

Bill James, co-Executive Director of Vanderkamp, recovering from knee surgery.

Roger Martin and Lester Staton, recovering from surgeries.

The congregations and faith communities of: Isaiah's Table, Syracuse; Korean Church of Syracuse; Park Central, Syracuse; Robinson Memorial, Syracuse; South Valley, Syracuse.

In our Congregation

Bonnie Arnold (sister of Nancy Sagar Loffredo)
Brian Ball (brother of Bruce Ball)
Walter Beer (Linda Peters' father)
Laura F. Brown (daughter of Shirley Falkner)
Margery Caywood (mother of Shelly Brooks)
Helen Ifflander (mother of Nancy Sagar Loffredo)
Sheri-Anne Mitchell (daughter of Barbara & Raymond)
Charlie Poole (student of Shelly Brooks)
Leslie Tuttle (daughter of Dick Tuttle and Sharye Skinner)
Jan Anthony Vinopal (grandson of Jana Laxa)
Sally Scribner
Marion York
Chuck Lewis
Barbara & Gerry Favro

Vanderkamp could use your helping hands. Regardless of your skill level or ability there are many ways to help. No experience necessary.

Current projects include roofing, pressure washing, staining picnic tables, staining stairs and fire escapes, tree branch clean up from logging and recent storm damage, splitting and stacking firewood, housekeeping and other general maintenance projects.

We meet for service and fellowship from 1:00-5:00 PM on the Second Saturday of each month. Our next meeting is on October 8th. Let us know by Thursday if you plan on joining us. Call us at 315-675-3651 or email to vkcenter@vk.org.

A publication of the
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Cazenovia, New York

Worship Services 10:00 a.m.

Nursery care provided 3 yrs. & under

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. in the Wendell House
for children Pre-Kindergarten thru 12th grade.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 315-655-3191 **FAX:** 315-655-4285

Website: www.cazpres.org

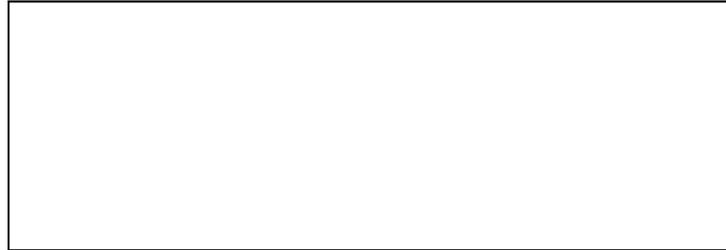
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