



News From The Heart

JANUARY 2018

First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia, NY

In the Heart of the Village since 1799

Pastor's Journal

Church Staff:

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

Dear Friends,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I simply want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to each and every one of you for your ongoing support, involvement, diligence, hard work, faithfulness, trust and prayers with regard to First Presbyterian Church over the past year. Most of all, I want to give thanks to God for all the blessings we've received, the challenges we've confronted and the successes we've been afforded. I believe this congregation has every reason to feel gratified about its accomplishments, humbled in the presence of God's abiding grace, and more than hopeful about the future of its mission. As your pastor, I must confess, I am proud of you all.

When challenged with rather daunting tasks, such as the Pass-Thru Project, you have risen to the occasion. That long-awaited aspiration will get underway beginning on January 2, 2018. By March, Phase One should be completed. But even before that work begins, the Trustees are already beginning to set the stage for Phase Two by engaging in some initial

visioning.

When presented with an opportunity to engage in innovative new mission – taking the lead in a collaborative community effort to address the global plight of refugees by taking bold, courageous action on a local level – you not only showed good diligence in your discernment for God's will in the matter, in the wake of that discernment you've been willing to take a leap of faith in spite of some lingering uncertainties.

When others, friends and strangers alike, have been stricken by natural disasters – floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados – you have responded with amazing grace and generosity. In the face of the tragedy of others, you have refused to look away, but rather have opened your hearts to share in their suffering and do whatever you could to ease their pain. You have been faithfully responsive to the world around you, far and near, by being good stewards of the compassion, prayers and resources with which God has entrusted you.

When confronted with a series of difficult personal experiences – serious health issues, sudden losses, painful

Pastor's Journal—Continued

goodbyes – within this beloved community itself, you have reached out to one another in sympathy and understanding and love. You have drawn together to remind each other that – like trees in the stormy gale – we are stronger when we stand closer together.

And, perhaps most noteworthy, you've engaged in these activities and efforts, mission and ministries out of a deep-seated sense of compassion for the needs and struggles of others, even, at times, over and against your own. You have acted in all good faith and allowed yourselves to be led by the heart.

Now, I can just hear some of you say, “Of course, Rev. Tom, that's what a church is all about, right? I mean, that's what Christians are supposed to do.”

No doubt. And yet, I think that we do not

celebrate enough this special call in our lives together and the amazing blessings which come with it. Nor do we often take the time to affirm who we have been, who we are, and who we are yet becoming as we strive to follow that calling.

Are we perfect? Heavens no! We are human.

Do we always agree or always get along? Of course not. We are family.

God still has much good work to do within us, among us, and through us.

But today, on the exciting threshold of this New Year, I celebrate all that I see God doing at First Presbyterian Church in Cazenovia, New York.

And I rejoice in the blessings God has given me to be able to join with you in that good work.

Peace,

Tom

Fellowship Committee Update

DATE CHANGE

Game Night and Taco Bar Dinner - Friday, January 26th, 6:00 pm

We are hosting a fun evening with games, dinner and fellowship for all ages. Taco basics, beverages and table service will be provided, we ask that attendees bring taco toppings, appetizers or dessert to share. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 24th. Starting in the new year, there will be sign-up sheets during coffee hour or contact Sue Perriello (sgperriello@gmail.com or 315-655-5826).

Winterfest Snow Sculpture - Saturday, February 10th

We are planning to participate in Cazenovia's Winterfest Snow Sculpture

competition. We'll start the morning building snow sculpture(s) with a warm lunch to follow. Watch for details!

Members and Friends Fellowship Directory

It's been several years since our last picture directory was published so we'll start this project in the new year.

X-Country Skiing in February

If you'd be interested in skiing after church one Sunday, let a committee member know!

Beth Freedman, co-chair, Sue Perriello, co-chair
Nadine Bell, Julie Carr, Amanda Furco, Bob Horstmyer, Steve McEntee, Jim Perry, Sharye Skinner

From The Music Director



Wow! What an amazing Advent and Christmas season we've had this year at Caz Pres! I always feel so blessed to share the wonder of the season with a generous and talented congregation. Many thanks go to all the gifted performers, both adults and

children, who shared their gifts throughout the month of December. Mary Coburn, who is always so generous with her time, opened the season with her string ensemble for the Christmas Walk. We had a whole handful of kids who played for the Christmas Pageant. Then, we were pleased to welcome back Nate Kearcher and Pat Carney on trumpet to kick off the last week in advent with some joyful arrangements of our favorite Christmas carols.

Finally, as I write this, we're just putting the final touches on the Christmas Eve service. Mary and her sister Joanna Robertson, Natalie Brandt, Brendan Coffey, Maddie Filkhorn, and finally

Ethan Coburn will join us for the famous Concerto grosso in G Minor- The Christmas Concerto by Arcangelo Corelli. Katie McGinnis and Lesley Roberts also will solo on "O Holy Night" by Adolphe Adam. I'm looking forward to a much-needed Sunday off on December 31st, and Mr. Lorin Hunt will be filling in for me on the organ.

For January, we're excited to get the Jubilate bell choir back together on the 7th after worship. These kids were working hard up until the pageant to get ready to play for a service. We haven't planned a date to play yet, but hopefully very soon!

Thanks again to all the performers over this season, and especially the Senior Vocal Choir and the Caz Pres Ringers. They all really went above and beyond with extra rehearsal time to make some wonderful music happen.

Best wishes to you and yours in the New Year!

Sunday School

Sunday School Calendar

January 7- Communion Sunday; graders 4 through 12 remain in church

January 14- Regular Sunday School

January 21- Regular Sunday School

January 28- Regular Sunday School

Christmas Pageant Thanks

Many thanks to all 30 of the children who participated in the Christmas Pageant. It was a great celebration. Also, thanks to everyone who helped make this such a special activity for our Sunday School.

Souper Bowl of Caring

During the month of January, the Sunday School will once again be collecting soups and other can items for CazCares. Collection will continue until February 4th.

Nursery Care

Abby and Olivia McEntee will be in the nursery through January 21st as our college students, Brezzy and Kamryn spend the school break with their families. Many thanks.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In our Nation and our World

Pray for victims of the California wild fires. Pray also for firefighters, police, medical, and other first responders who are working in those fire areas.

Pray for those involved in the train derailment in Washington.

In our Presbytery

Please pray for following congregations and faith communities of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse: Columbian, LaFayette; First, Liverpool; First, Marcellus; First, Mexico; Morrisville Community Church.

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.

- Friends and Family of Brian Ball (Bruce Ball's brother)
- Family and Friends of Marion Freedman (Beth Freedman's Mother-in-law)
- Family and Friends of Bonnie Arnold (Nancy Loffredo's sister)
- Family and Friends of Ann Harries
- Family and Friends of Charlotte Moore (Friend of Melinda McElroy)
- Tina Serrao (Daughter of Virginia Greene)
- Sue Breda (Friend of Mae Wondrack)
- Philip Buckhout (Craig Buckhout's Father)

Nominating Committee

2018 is now upon us and our church is looking for a few good women and men who would be willing and able to serve as Deacons, Elders and Trustees. Some of you have served before and might be ready to serve again. Others have never served on one of church's boards but feel called by the Holy Spirit to help lead our wonderful church.

Feel free to contact Sue (sgperrielo@gmail.com 315-655-5826) or Sharye (sharyecaz@gmail.com 315-420-0980) who are the co-chairs of the Nominating Committee. Or talk to a current Deacon, Elder or Trustee. Their names are listed on the back of the Sunday bulletin.

Schedule of Events

Mon, 1/01	OFFICE CLOSED
Tue, 1/02	OFFICE CLOSED
Thu, 1/04	Blood Drive
Sun, 1/07	Fellowship Meeting
Sun, 1/07	Jubilate Choir re-
Sun, 1/07	Christian Ed Meeting
Mon, 1/08	Trustees
Tue, 1/09	Worship and Music
Wed, 1/10	Men's Breakfast
Wed, 1/10	Staff Meeting
Mon, 1/15	OFFICE CLOSED
Mon, 1/15	Session Meeting
Wed, 1/17	Alice Edwards Circle
Sat, 1/20	Newsletter Deadline
Sun, 1/21	Deacons Meeting
Fri, 1/26	Fellowship game night
Sun, 1/28	Ronald McDonald
Sunday 1/28	Annual Meeting

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.

Trustees Update

The big news from the Trustees is that the first phase of the Pass-Through project is scheduled to start after the 1st of the New Year! The initial project will include the construction of a handicap accessible passage way between the Sanctuary and Meeting House, the conversion of the Meeting House Ladies Restroom to a handicap accessible Uni-sex Restroom and the replacement of the flooring in the entrance area of the Meeting House. Look for construction updates in the weekly bulletin.



Current View of the Sanctuary



Proposed Changes to the Sanctuary

In addition to the Pass-Through project, new Smart “Nest” Thermostats have been installed in the Choir Room and Meeting House to go along with the Smart Thermostat which is in the Sanctuary. An additional “Nest” is being installed in the Manse. 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.

As a reminder to the congregation, once construction starts with the Pass-Through, access to the Meeting House from the Sanctuary will need to be from the outside and the Meeting House restroom will be out of service. Also, members and their children should stay clear of the construction area as we don't want anyone to get hurt while the project is under construction.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after church on January 28, 2018.

From the Mailbag

"Better than chicken soup!"

Rev. Tom wants to express his gratitude for all the prayers and well-wishes folks sent his way during a recent bout with bronchitis. The moral support was much appreciated!

My heartfelt thanks to all for your prayers, kind words, thoughts and support after Gabe's passing. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family.
Thank you all!

Carla Kinney and Girls

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Non-Profit Organization

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Permit No. 2

Upcoming Events

Alice Edwards Circle

Noon, Wednesday, January
17, 2018

Meeting House

Hostesses: Janet McCobb,
Sue Perriello

Program: "Initial Steps of
Getting Organized"

Presenter: Peg Moore from
Moore Organized

Please bring a smile, a sand-
wich, and a personal care
product for CazCares.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

Thursday,
January 4th,
1-6pm

Men's Breakfast

7:30 a.m. January 10th

Meeting House

All men are welcome to
gather for breakfast and
discussion

