

First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia

September 2016 Newsletter

The Pastor's Journal

September is a month of transitions. Children return to school. Summer gradually gives way to autumn. The temperatures begin to entertain morning frost. Leaves try on their seasonal attire. Folks break out their cool weather clothing.

Indeed, September is a month of transitions. But then, so much of life seems to be about *transitions*. Change happens; sometimes out of choice, sometimes by necessity.

And while, so often, we tend to resist change, there is something within us, I think, that resonates with the changing seasons. As a species, we human beings seem to have an inherent instinct to be in continual motion.

From the moment we are taken out of the crib and placed on a baby blanket on the living room floor, some deep seated ambulatory dream stirs within the human breast urging us to mobilize: first struggling to roll over on our stomach; then pushing ourselves up with our hands and getting our knees under us to crawl; finally using the coffee table to pull ourselves up on wobbly legs to take those first unsteady steps.

We begin life by exploring the confines of our infancy. From that point on, the wide world beckons. Of course, the longing for forward motion is not only a physical drive, although it is powerfully that. We also have an irresistible yearning as spiritual beings to broaden our 'metaphysical' horizons, push beyond the boundaries of our understandings, expand the limits of consciousness. As the great French philosopher and devote Jesuit Priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin observed, "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience."

In other words, even after the resources necessary to keep body and soul together are located, there yet remains a more transcendent impetus to move. A spiritual instinct that pushes us on. Pierre de Chardin went on to say, "Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire."

Chardin's belief, one which I share, was that at the end of all our moving – whether exploring what lies around the next bend in the road or peering into the heart of the most distant galaxy – we will discover that what we were seeking all along was the One who brings all things together at last in love; the very One who is both the genesis and the destination of all life's journeying. And the one thing which seems to make all of life's transitions most bearable – both those we celebrate as well as those we struggle through – is the truth that we do not travel alone. There is God. And there are other sojourners along the way to share the experience.

For the past two years you, as a congregation, have been through a time of challenging transition as you searched for your next pastor. And I marvel at the strength of community with which you have navigated that journey. You responded to the difficulties along the way by reaffirming the faith you share, and you rejoiced in the gifts you've been given to help each other through it all.

For the past several months, Diane and I have been experiencing our own challenging transition as we sought to discern God's call forward in our lives. Yet, what began as separate journeys have now, I believe, been brought together (at last) in the Spirit of God's love.

My first month as the 'next pastor' of 1st Presbyterian Church in Cazenovia has come and gone. And what a wonderful experience it has been. You have opened your homes and your hearts to both Diane and me. Indeed, people in the church have been so genuinely warm and welcoming, and gracious and generous, that Diane and I feel we have truly found a place where body and soul *and spirit* can come together in a new way. We feel a sense of confirmation for having taken this next step in our own faith journey, and we celebrate with you a renewed sense of gratitude for God's providence through all of life's transitions. We are committed, henceforth, to join in stride with the good people of 1st Pres Caz to seek where God would have us go next as the church.

May God so bless us as we seek to discern that will together.

In the Love of Jesus Christ,
Tom

Upcoming Events

<u>Alice Edwards Circle</u>	Meeting: September 21st @ noon-	~Board Room
<u>Board of Deacons:</u>	Meeting: September 18th @ 11:15 a.m.	~Library
<u>Board of Trustees:</u>	Meeting: September 19th @ 6:30 p.m.	~ Work Room
<u>Christian Education:</u>	Meeting: September 11th @ 11:15	~Wendall Haouse
<u>Evangelism & Fellowship:</u>	Meeting: September 25th @ 11:15	~ Work Room
<u>Outreach:</u>	Meeting: October 9th @ 11:15 a.m.	~Board Room
<u>Session:</u>	Meeting: September 19th @ 7:15	~Meeting House
<u>Worship & Music Committee:</u>	Meeting: September 20th @ 6:00 p.m.	~Work Room
<u>Newsletter Deadline:</u>	September 20th!	

Alice Edwards Circle

Next Meeting:

September 21st @ Noon

Meeting House

Hostesses— Barb Favro, Sue Perriello

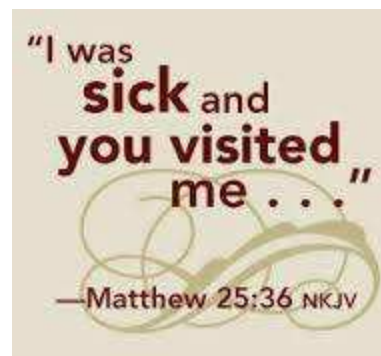
Program— Unexpected Collections

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

Are you in need of a pastoral visit or do you know someone who would like one? Please email or call the church office to schedule a day and time and provide details on the particulars.

caz1stpresby@windstream.net

315-655-3191





Sunday School News



Many thanks to the members of the Christian Education Committee who helped to clean and organize the Wendell House at the beginning of the summer. We have placed a table with many books that have been used in the past for Sunday School classes. We hope that members of the congregation will help us to get them to people who will enjoy them.

The Christian Education Committee hosted a picnic on August 18th for Sunday School families to informally meet Dr. Oak. It was a great to get together with the youngest members of our church as well as time to explore some ideas for our fall program.

Sunday School Schedule for September

Sept. 4 -Final Sunday with Sharye Skinner
Sept. 11 - Start of the fall program and registration
Sept. 18- Regular Sunday School
Sept. 25-Regular Sunday School

Best Wishes!

We would like to say thank you and good luck at college to **Olivia McEntee**. The children will miss seeing you in the nursery and Sunday School.

Many Thanks to Sharye Skinner for her Summer Sunday School program. The lessons about creation were interesting and fun. Everyone appreciates your hard work and dedication.

The Christian Education committee is always looking for people to help with our children in Sunday School. Opportunities include teaching or substituting in class, helping with a mission project such Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes or with the Christmas Pageant. We know that anytime that you spend with our wonderful children will provide a joy experience for both the children and you.

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.



Summer Times!

Talented Children!

Picnics!





As you may have heard, we had a little work done to the organ this summer. Under each keyboard or manual, there is a set of small push buttons called pistons. These control the memory system on the organ- the only high-tech portion of our historically accurate instrument. This system, also called the combination action, makes it easy to change the sounds on the organ quickly. With the press of a piston, the organist can change from

loud to soft, or change what “combination” of stops is turned on almost instantly. Bach would have been so jealous!

A few years ago, the organ was updated with a computer controlled combination action with thirty-two levels of memory. The original system, a board with numerous toggle switches, was computer free and had one level of memory. The organist had to leave the console, move the choir risers, open up the organ case, and set the switches as to how they wanted the pistons to operate. The new system, along with the ability to operate totally from the console, has multiple memory levels allowing the organist or organists to prepare for many pieces.

As you may also know, computers are picky about the inputs they receive. (I know mine is!) The original pistons were designed to turn on electro-mechanical relays, which are not so picky. Any break in electrical contact or chatter while the piston was being pressed, and the old style relay would still do its job. When these old style pistons were hooked up to the new system, the results after some time weren't always good. When the computer system saw the chatter it wasn't sure what to do. Sometimes it would call the right combination, and sometimes it would call combinations which I had never seen before. As you might guess, this can be disastrous during a piece- like if the trumpet was turned on during communion.

We now have a completely new set of computer grade pistons installed under both manuals. This involved removing most of the keys from the top manual, which is why the job took a little longer than expected. There are also a set of buttons for the feet, called toe studs, which we left for another time. These may require replacement in another few years. With complicated machine like an organ, good maintenance is key. For now, the organ is back at one hundred percent! As always thank you all for your support!

God Bless,
Vince Guarneiri



for
ser-

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



Outreach Update

The Outreach Committee met on August 14th and approved the following disbursements to several worthy organizations.

The Friendship Inn (in Summit Church) will receive a donation of \$1,000 to assist them in their mission to provide meals for people in need. Diane Campbell suggested that First Pres members interested in volunteer opportunities should consider The Friendship Inn. She has found volunteering there to be extremely rewarding.

Our committee voted to give Isaiah's Table \$1,500 this year as they need to restock the food pantry and also purchase socks for the homeless. Our donation will also help purchase mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats for those served by this very worthy organization.

Clear Path for Veterans, which does such wonderful work with our military veterans, will receive \$1,000 thanks to the generous support of this congregation.

As always, we continue to support the exceptional work of Caz Cares. The committee, therefore, approved a donation of \$2,000.

Prior to this meeting, in response to a last-minute request, we voted by email to donate \$500 to support a needy child desiring to attend Vanderkamp. As you may have noticed, there is a box in the narthex for our annual drive for school supplies for Caz Cares. Some of you have generously donated already, but the need is great. We will continue this drive until the last Sunday of September, so while you are purchasing your children's school supplies, please consider helping out some local children who need these supplies as well.

Furthermore, in response to a request from The Mustard Seed, in October we will begin a collection of gently used linens, new pillows, and diapers for this organization. Keep this in mind while you are out shopping!

Finally, the Outreach Committee was delighted to welcome our new pastor, Rev. Oak, to our meeting. We look forward to his guidance as we continue to search for ways to help those in need.

We thank you, the congregation, for your continued support!

Patricia Johnson and Linda Peters
Co-Chairs, Outreach Committee



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...



People around the World who are suffering from tragedy, natural disasters, and strife.



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

Bonnie Arnold (Nancy Sagar Loffredo's sister)

Brian Ball (Brother of Bruce Ball)

Laura F. Brown (Shirley Falkner's daughter)

Margery Caywood (Mother of Shelly Brooks)

Helen Ifflander (Nancy Sagar Loffredo's mother)

Chuck Lewis

Sheri-Anne Mitchell (daughter of Barbara & Raymond Mitchell)

Charlie Poole (Student of Shelly Brooks)

Sally Scribner

Jan Anthony Vinopal (grandson of Jana Laxa)

Marion York



For the men and women stationed throughout the world
in service to their country.

Fritz Koennecke III

Matt Shane (Son of Janet Furco serving in the Middle East)

We pray for their safety. We pray for peace.

The brave men and women who are recovering from their
tours,

the nurses, doctors and therapists who care for them
and their families; family & friends of all the men & women
in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

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

email: caz1stpresby@windstream.net

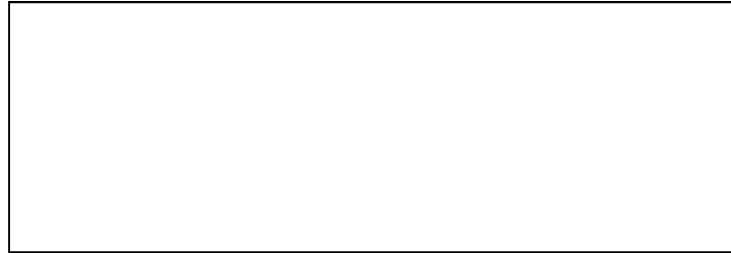
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Established in 1799

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