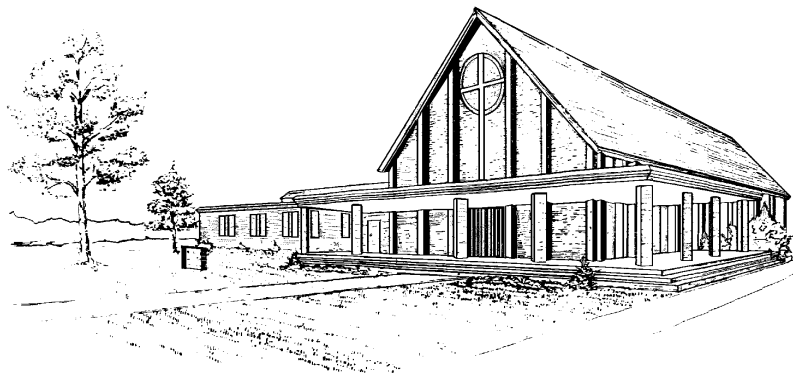


# STEEPLE CHIMES

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn

ISSUE: Two Hundred Three

SEPTEMBER 2017



## Message From the Pastor

As summer comes to an end, we look ahead to Rally Day (September 10<sup>th</sup>), which we traditionally celebrate with balloons, special worship and an afternoon picnic. Rally Day, a great Sunday to invite our friends to church, is also the first Sunday that we return to our 10:30 a.m. worship time.

Rally Day has a long and proud history in American Protestantism. It was early recognized as a time to rally Christian youth beneath the banner of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of our salvation. Today it remains an occasion to intentionally open our hearts a little further to the Spirit of God at work in our lives and in our world. It offers the opportunity to take note of the obstacles to our own spiritual development, those emotional attitudes and social fears that block the opening of our personalities to spiritual formation and spiritual consciousness, to deeper awareness of the ways the Holy Spirit is working in our midst, bringing life out of death and transforming us, degree by degree, after the image of Jesus Christ.

May this Rally Day be a time for all of us to follow Christ more closely as He leads us, a time to deepen our trust that Christ really has called the church into being and really is faithful to his promise never to abandon it. Let us live into our calling as disciples, companions (literally, people who eat bread together) along this journey of faith.

Together in service,  
Pastor Fred



## Toward a Christian Perspective on the Immigration Debate

When I was growing up, my father used to tell me stories about my ancestor John Howland from whom I take my middle name. A passenger on the Mayflower, John Howland distinguished himself by falling overboard as the ship approached land and, once rescued, outliving most of his fellow pilgrims who made that fateful voyage with him.

My father was proud of his heritage, and was easily provoked when his sister-in-law disparaged his pilgrim forebear. My aunt had still “bluer blood” than my father and his twin brother, and she liked to sneer that John Howland “was *only* an indentured servant.”

John Howland was an indentured servant, and he was an alien and stranger in a land that was not his own. And unless we can claim Native American roots, we are all of us strangers and aliens in this land.

The issue of immigration is always divisive, but never more so than in times of economic uncertainty. When the national debate about immigration becomes polarized, even strident, what perspective does a Christian bring to the conversation? Do we as Christians frame this conversation in any distinctive way?

For Christians, our “frame” for this and other conversations is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, and Holy Scripture, the indispensable witness to who Jesus Christ is and what he came to do. Among the foundational texts for any conversation about “foreigners” is this instruction from Jesus’ own Bible (what we call the “Old Testament”): “*When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God*” (Lev. 19:33-34) (NIV).

Another text we may draw upon as Christians is from the Gospel of Matthew: “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, *when did we see you a stranger and invite you in?*’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me’” (Matt. 25:37-40) (NIV). And, turning to the Epistles, we may draw upon the assurance that we are “*no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens* with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19-20).

On the basis of such scriptures, the Presbytery of Long Island at its June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting voted to affirm the efforts of its specific congregations who seek to shelter and support immigrants fleeing places of great danger as an authentic expression of God’s kingdom work in the midst of the injustices of this world.

The Biblical basis of that action is that both our Old and New Testaments consistently call the people of God to care for the vulnerable and oppressed in society, and give special attention to a class of people who are described as “aliens,” “foreigners,” or “strangers” in the land.

The commandment to love the stranger and treat the alien as one native-born, together with the assurance that we were once strangers and aliens but no longer, may not “settle” all the issues under debate regarding immigration policy or illegal immigration. But for the Christian, Scripture, not the ideology of nativism, frames how we think about, behave toward, and legislate regarding immigrants and refugees. (Nativism is the policy of protecting the interests of established inhabitants against those of immigrants. Even when it goes by the name of “patriotism,” nativism is not to be confused with Christianity, which is based on the life, work and teachings of Jesus, the Christ).

Jim Wallis, editor of Sojourner's magazine, reminds Christians that "one day we'll all cross over the waters... undocumented." On that day, we will all be relying upon God's grace, not upon the presumption that our own "papers in order." It will make no difference on that day if my ancestors came to these shores on the Mayflower or yours through Ellis Island. It will make no difference on that day if my ancestors came across this border illegally from Mexico, or yours were transported as human cargo aboard slave ships. We are all made in the image and likeness of God. And our prayer then shall be that our God will be gracious *even unto us*.

Let us live generously toward others in the confidence of God's generous love *even for us*, though we ourselves were once aliens and outside the promises of God. May we not neglect to extend hospitality to strangers, because in so doing, we may we may be entertaining messengers from God (Heb. 13:2)- or even Jesus himself.

Submitted by Pastor Fred



**HELP US KICK OFF A NEW YEAR!!  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH**

**10:30 AM WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL  
BALLOONS, SONGS, AND FELLOWSHIP  
3:00 PM ALL CHURCH PICNIC  
RAIN OR SHINE**

**HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, AND DRINKS PROVIDED  
LAST NAME A to M: PLEASE BRING A LARGE SALAD TO SHARE  
LAST NAME N to Z : PLEASE BRING DESSERT**

**WELCOME BACK TO A YEAR OF FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH  
AS WE CONTINUE ON OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY**

## **September Youth Happenings**

Want to know more about the Church Youth Group?  
Contact Youth Director Debbie Eitel at [debbie\\_eitel@ibi.com](mailto:debbie_eitel@ibi.com)

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### **Sunday Sept 3- Car Wash 2-5PM**

~in the driveway of the church

All monies will go towards church deficit



### **Sunday Sept 10th - RALLY DAY! & Church Picnic!**

Back to school time! Balloons in church!

**\*\*10:30 AM** worship service resumes!!!

Church Picnic is from 3-6 PM on the Front Lawn

# **PRAYER CORNER**

## **September 2017**

### **KIND DEEDS**

~Isaac Watts

Little drops of water, little grains of sand.  
Make the mighty ocean, and the pleasant land.

Thus the little minutes, humble though they be,  
Make the mighty ages of eternity.

Little deeds of kindness, little words of love,  
Make this earth an Eden like the heaven above.

*Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed!  
Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people  
with a glimpse of good living and of the living God..*

Philippians 2:14-16 Message

### **LABORERS' BEATITUDES**

~JOAN ROSENTHAL

Blessed are they who work with enthusiasm,  
for they shall sleep with ease.

Blessed are they who continually improve their skills,  
for their work shall be an everlasting challenge.

Blessed are they who encourage their coworkers,  
for they shall work among friends.

Blessed are they who take pride in their work,  
for their work shall speak well of them.

Blessed are they who welcome criticism,  
for they shall need little of it.

Blessed are they whose boss is the Lord,  
for they shall enjoy good labor-management relations.

*Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that  
your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58*

## RECIPE FOR CLEAN LIVING

~Anon

First, plant 3 rows of Peas  
Persistence  
Patience and  
Peace of mind

Next, plant 4 hills of Squash  
Squash Gossip  
Squash Grumbling  
Squash Selfishness  
Squash Apathy

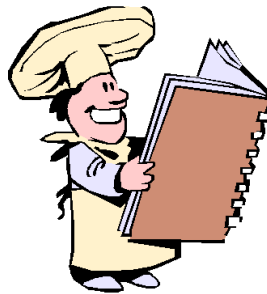
Then plant 3 rows of Lettuce  
Let us be Kind  
Let us be Responsible and  
Let us be Respectful

No garden is complete without Turnips  
Turn up with a Smile and  
Turn up with a Healthy Attitude.

Water regularly with Confidence and Love  
And let your garden bring forth much Fruit.

If we could all remember to cultivate this,  
No challenge would be too great,  
And what a wonderful world this would be.

Submitted by Betty Chatfield



### When Christians Come to Know Jesus

I appreciate the story, told by Os Guinness in *The Call: Finding and Filling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (1998), about Dr. Arthur F. Burns, who was a Columbia Economics professor, a chair of the

Federal Reserve Board (1970-1978), and an Ambassador to West Germany. During his time in Washington, Burns, though he was Jewish, agreed to join a White House Bible Study. But since Burns was Jewish, the other members of the study were reticent in that season of our national life to ask him to pray at the end of their time together.

One day the group had a guest leader who didn't know about this unwritten rule, and the leader invited Burns to pray. To everyone's surprise, Dr. Burns stood up and began to pray, "O God, may the day come when all Muslims will come to know Jesus and when all Jews will come to know Jesus, *and when all Christians will come to know Jesus.*"

Part of the good news announced in Scripture is that among those God loves to convert are all the messed-up religious people like us, people who think we are God's favorites and can read God's mind, and who try so hard "help" God, but who regularly get it so very wrong. We can give thanks that there is always more to Christ than we can see, and therefore, always more to our lives than we can know. The question for us is whether we will come to see ourselves in Christ or through the lens of ideology, whether on the right or on the left.

Submitted by Pastor Fred



### **KUDOS TO KATHIE!!**

The World Transplant Games were held this year in Madrid, Spain, with our own Kathie Gerlach attending. Kathie made it to the finals in three out of her four event races!

This year the World Transplant Games inducted four people into their first ever Hall of Fame, held at Malaga's famous Bull Ring. Kathie had the honor and distinction of being one of the first four inductees!

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
MEMBERS OF THE  
CENTERPORT UNITY AA GROUP  
WHO USE OUR FACILITIES  
TWICE A WEEK FOR HAVING THE  
CARPET CLEANED IN THE PARLOR!**

PRESBYTERY DAY

**WORSHIP WORKSHOP**

Saturday September 30, 2017  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
Bethany Presbyterian Church  
425 Maplewood Rd. Huntington Station NY

**LED BY DR. MARCIA McFEE**  
PROFESSOR, WORSHIP DESIGNER, AUTHOR, PREACHER AND RITUAL ARTIST

SESSION 1 ~ CREATIVE WORSHIP WITH DEEP SOUL  
SESSION 2 ~ THINK LIKE A FILMMAKER  
SESSION 3 ~ THE RHYTHMS OF LITURGY & LIFE & THE POLITICS OF CHANGE  
SESSION 4 ~ "O LORD, IS IT SUNDAY ALREADY?"

**SEE FLYERS POSTED IN LOBBY FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REGISTER**



# *First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn*



497 Pulaski Road  
Greenlawn, New York 11740  
Phone: 631-261-2150

## ***Sunday Worship***

**10:30 AM**

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matt 19:14)*

### **Pastor Fred's Office Hours**

are from 11:00am through 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday... unless visiting or attending meetings.  
Outside the above hours, please call (631) 626-3702  
for appointments and consultations

## **OUR STAFF**

**Rev Frederick H. Woodward, Pastor**  
**Linda Siegmann, Administrative Assistant**  
**Catherine Mahler, Director of Music**  
**Debra Eitel, Youth Director**  
**Margaret Negrelli, Clerk of Session**  
**Jim Dean, Treasurer**  
**Ed Close, Asst. Treasurer**  
**Betty Chatfield, Financial Secretary**  
**Nancy MacIntyre, Benevolence Treasurer**

### **This is *Your* Church**

As Christians, we are called to serve God by serving others. Here at Greenlawn, many members respond to that call by volunteering their time and talents in one or more of the activities that support our church and community. Volunteers care for our church and facilities, participate in our worship and music services, nurture each other in times of need, and reach out to lend a helping hand in communities near and far.

Ask yourself :

*"How is God calling **Me** to His Service?"*