



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

May 2024

1st Presbyterian Church on the Park
17 Park Street
Canton, NY 13617

Phone (315) 386-2570
www.ChurchOnThePark.org
Office@ChurchOnThePark.org

Sundays in May

• **Worship Begins At 10:00 a.m.** •

• **May 5th** •

Communion
Deacons & Food Shelf Offering



• **May 12th** •

Mother's Day
Mothers & Others Brunch
After Worship



• **May 19th** •

Pentecost
Name Tag Sunday
Noisy Can Offering



• **May 26th** •

Trinity Sunday



Green Burial Workshop

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton will host a Green Burial Workshop, Thursday, **May 9th**, 7 - 8:30 p.m. to be led (by our very own) **Barry Walch**, recently retired professor Funeral Service Administration at SUNY Canton who will present a consumer-centered presentation on green burials followed by a question-and-answer period.



Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro..... Pastor
Pastor Donna Doig, CLP..... Associate Pastor
Andrea Montgomery..... Church School Director
Kathleen Crecco..... Director of Music & Pianist
Christy Dekay..... Office Coordinator
Emily & Kate Ewy..... Nursery Care Providers
Patience Boswell..... Sexton
Cameron Boswell..... Stream Master
Linda Potter..... Newsletter Editor

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tues. & Thursday

Mothers & Others Brunch

Huge thanks and much affection to the mothers in our midst for their great love, caring, and devotion. This year Mother's Day falls on **Sunday, May 12th** and we are excited to celebrate all the mothers in our church; as well as those who have cared for us like a mother.

As part of that celebration, we will be holding a **"Mothers and Others Brunch"** after the worship on May 12th. Please bring a dish to share and plan on staying to enjoy a feast to surround with love those who have loved us so well.

Set-up for the brunch will take place on **Saturday, May 11th at 1:30 p.m.** Many hands make light work!

Rummage Sale Report

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Spring Rummage Sale a huge success! We couldn't do it without you! From set-up to clean-up and everything in between (sorting, folding, shopping and cashiering). **\$1,394** was raised for the church. Thanks to RS Chair **Christy Dekay** and her army of volunteers: Nick, Sebastian & Rosalie Dekay, Emily Bolton, Barb King, Lyn Forbes, Pat Mace, John & Georgia Vose, Jim & Maria Franklin, Patience, Cameron & Aubry Boswell, Andrew King, Rebekah VanderStroep (with grandson Wolfe), Linda Potter, Michelle Theisen, Marilyn Rodee, Lynne Pickens, Susan Akins, Christa Lyon, Heidi Ames, Arvilla & Vern Aldous, Faye & Ben Bartley, Rita Ostrander and Judy Gibson.

Family News

Congratulations to church member and former Director of Music at our church **Dr. Dan Gordon** who recently conducted his choral music students from Southeastern University at **Carnegie Hall** as they performed Mozart's Mass in C Major (Coronation Mass) K. 317 with accompaniment from the New England Chamber Orchestra.

Prayers for **Barb King** addressing health matters this spring; **Anna** and **James Eller** in their pregnancy; **Barry Walch** facing health concerns; **Bill Gollinger** facing health concerns; and Church School Director, **Andrea Montgomery**, who continues to heal from a medical procedure.

Prayers for **Shirley Norton** who continues to heal and recover from a medical procedure. She would love to receive cards from her church family; 30 Sullivan Drive Apt. 228, Canton NY 13617.

Prayers for **Vern Aldous** facing continued health challenges, and for **Arvilla** in support of him. A trying time for Vern and Arvilla, cards and communications greatly appreciated; 6171 US Hwy 11, Canton NY 13617.

Prayers for **Bob Fraser** who continues to heal from a fall; **Lew Shepard**, and **Bill** and **Karen Parker**, and **Marilyn Coir** in their days; **Rich Denison** who continues to face health concerns; **Alice Poole** facing health challenges; **Rita Ostrander**, **Christa Lyon** and **Josh Holbrook** facing health challenges; Janet Favro currently residing at Keene Valley Neighborhood House (Attn Janet Favro, P.O. Box 46, Keene Valley, NY 12943); **Colleen Grant** for healing and wholeness, and husband **Dale** in support of her, (55 Bird Street, Canton, NY 13617); Jody Upton, sister of **Susan Akins**, being treated for a recurrence of cancer; and, **Roger McBath**, a resident at the Canton Nursing Home.

More Family News

Congratulations to **Arlo Catanzaro** who won a NYS Broadcasters Association video contest to encourage the next generation to enter local broadcasting. He produced a 30 second video describing how he got into this field and what he enjoys about his job as a broadcast engineer at WRGB in Schenectady. For his efforts, he was awarded \$1,000 (much to the relief of his mom and dad!).

Prayers for **Judy Gibson** who received good news from recent scans. Cards can be sent to her at 35 Riverside Dr., Apt. 3G, Canton NY 13617.

Prayers for **Nick Scelzi**, a resident of the Canton Nursing home. Nick is having a difficult time and any support or visits would be greatly appreciated. Cards may be sent care of Nick to Maple Wood Nursing Home, Willow 206, 205 State Street Road, Canton NY 13617.



Prayers for Samantha "Sam" Christopher, daughter of **John** and **Mary Christopher**, healing from surgery in Oregon; and for Mary who travelled to the west coast to support her recovery.

Prayers for those who continue to grieve and endure loss: Glenn Erickson (and brothers **Ray** and **Mark**) on the death of his wife Jane; the **Basford / Rodee** families, the **Brown** family and the **Webb** family; and **John Goetze**.

We pray for **parents raising children**, and **children caring for parents**.

Thanks to **John Goetze** for sponsoring one of our C&CP Bowling Teams at this year's tournament in memory of his wife, **Anne** who was an avid bowler (they would often bowl together on Sundays during their married life). **Thanks so much John!**

Student News

Congratulations to **Cameron Boswell** named to the 3rd quarter honor roll and was CTE student of the month for April, and **Aubrey Boswell** who made high honor roll (for the third quarter in a row!) and also was in the cast of the recent production of "Nemo."



Congratulations to **Maria Franklin** performing NYSSMA solo on saxophone; and playing on the Women's Modified Softball Team this season.

Congratulations to **Colin Montgomery** who received awards for reading and social studies. Just as wonderful was the surprise appearance of his big brother, **Hunter**, who told Colin and his classmates about being in the Army and his recent deployment (see Photo Page).

Congratulations to **Wes Gayle** had a fantastic season with the Canton Central Hoopster travel basketball team (see Photo Page).

Congratulations to **Emily Ewy** and **Kate Ewy** who are both performing adjudicated solos in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Spring 2024 Solo and Ensemble Festival on May 11 at the Crane School of Music. Kate is presenting solos on both B-flat and bass clarinet and Emily is playing a cello solo. The NYSSMA Festival gives students an opportunity to be scored by an impartial musical expert. Both girls have been working hard on their solos all year!

Emily is on the varsity track team at Potsdam High School, and Kate is the varsity lacrosse goal tender. They would love for church members to come to a meet or game. They don't have remaining competitions in Canton, but have many home competitions in Potsdam. Feel free to ask Rob or Carolyn for the schedules.

Student News - cont.

We are excited that Kate will be joining 11 other members of the Potsdam Figure Skating Club to compete in the State Games of America San Diego, CA in July. All of the skaters qualified for this national event by earning top medals in other figure skating competitions this year. The State Games of America are held biannually in different locations in the US. The Potsdam skaters will be holding various fundraisers, including:

May 18 - Can and Bottle Drive
9 - Noon at Potsdam Ives Park

May 20 - Spaghetti Dinner
5:30 p.m. till gone at Potsdam Elks

June 14 - Spaghetti Dinner
3 - 7 p.m. at the Potsdam Moose Lodge

June 22 - Car Wash
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Barstow Collision

And MORE Family News!

HUGE Thanks to **Vicki McLain** and **Pat Mace** for setting up the Fellowship Hall for the Maundy Thursday service. The tables were beautifully set and lovingly appointed, creating a very solemn and sacred atmosphere for this most special service.

Thanks to **Phil Elvy** and **Dr. Keli Hollis** for the donation of a paper shredder for the church office, and for their willingness to help us get caught up on shredding *years* of old financial records through the shredding service they have for their dental practice. **Greatly appreciated!**

Leadership! Great thanks to **Christy Dekay** for chairing the Spring Rummage Sale, and to **Beth Hayes** for heading up the recent Ham Dinner, along with EVERYONE who helped to make this fundraisers so successful and so much fun!

Church Attendance

	In-Person	Stream	CS
March 31	68	55	No CS
April 7	34	50	No CS
April 14	40	44	10
April 21	57	43	9
April 28	51	35	10

Average In-Person Attendance: 50

Average Live-Stream Attendance: 45

Average CS Attendance: 10

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
March 31	\$1,901.74	\$ 20.00
April 7	\$2,731.00	\$ 400.00
April 21	\$4,492.30	\$ 116.00
April 28	\$3,089.00	\$ 365.00
Total:	\$12,214.04	\$ 901.00

Church School News

April was a short month for the Church School kids due to Easter and Spring Break. This month, the kids read the book **"Letters To God"** and discussed the various themes of the book. They also wrote their own letters to God and/or the younger ones drew pictures. The group also learned about **Earth Day** and the importance of taking care of **God's creation**. The last week of the month was dedicated to **Noah's Ark** and building their own Ark crafts.



Thank You!

Connie Jenkins, Director at the **Church & Community Program**, says *"Thank you to the Presbyterian Noisy Can Youth Mission for a delivery of food you provided for those in need. Thanks to you all and many other supporters of CCP, our food pantry is in good supply, with food available for those who come to be helped. We sure appreciate it."*

Officers & Committees

Elders On Session

To strengthen and nurture the faith and the life of the congregation.

Joe Montgomery Patrick LaPierre Rob Ewy
 Sarah Melville Barry Walch Jim Franklin
 Anna Eller Heidi Ames Pat McGuire
 Rich Grayson Michelle Theisen
 Patricia Mace - Clerk Of Session

Board of Deacons

Ministering to the sick, those in need, the friendless, and those in distress.

Christy Dekay Ray Erickson Mark Brackett
 Susan Akins Jane Cable Ellen Grayson
 Jean McGuire Bob Duda Stacie Olney-LaPierre
 Secretary Moderator
 Ray Erickson, Treasurer

Committees

Chairs

Resources Jim Franklin
 Responsible for managing and dispensing funds to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.

Facilities Barry Walch, Rich Grayson & Pat McGuire

Responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property.

Fellowship Ellen Grayson & Pat Mace
 Responsible for all fellowship events.

Nominating Jean McGuire, Michelle Theisen, Gordy Theisen, Barb Brown & Sarah Melville
 Responsible for filling Session, Deacons & Offices.

Church School Anna Eller
 Responsible for growth, nurturing & learning.

Worship Sarah Melville
 With pastor, responsible for worship.

Communion Pat Mace & Vicki McLain

Stewardship Jim Franklin
 Responsible for securing resources and energy to fulfill the mission & ministry of our church.

Mission Michelle Theisen & Rob Ewy
 Helping our church, community and world.

Treasurer Mary McGreevy

Financial Secretary Barry Walch
 Asst. Financial Secretary Anna Eller

C&C Program JJ Jockel, Sean Boutin & Michelle Theisen

Personnel Anna Eller, Heidi Ames & Patrick LaPierre

The Pastor's Report

Well, if you haven't heard, old Rev. Mike had to take a "Mental Health Day" this past Sunday (of a sort). I had written a sermon entitled "The Fruits of Our Faith" which was mailed out to everyone and posted on the website per usual. However, when I arrived at church that Sunday morning, I was in no kind of mood to deliver it. Instead I went "off the cuff" (though, believe me when I tell you, I have been thinking hard for many months about these things).

Long story short, I shared with those in attendance and on the live-stream that of late I've been getting "up-tight" and am not having the kind of fun in my role that I would like. To quickly "land the plane" here, everything is fine and there were/are no big surprises or bad news. Really, what it comes down to is the increasing onus I feel to get our church to a certain "place" ahead of the inevitable transition in ministers. I'll be 60 in November, and have been here doing this here for 25 years now (30 overall) so "the math" is fairly easily done.

It is a "good news/bad news" kind of thing. First, the good news: we *have* time. The bad news? What I think needs to happen is going to *take* time. Herein lies the tale. At some future point there *will* be a different minister here on the Park. I would very much like to see the new/next minister assume the responsibility of a vital, growing and healthy congregation (which we already have and enjoy, and I only see these things increasing) *along with* buildings and grounds in the best possible condition befitting such a congregation.

In the short term (within the year) this means getting the Selleck Room

completed and the nursery painted and refurbished. We have an AWESOME group of kids currently at our church (and, I would submit, more on the way) who are greatly deserving of a "cool" space(s) of their own to grow, explore and expand in body, mind, and spirit. To accomplish this, we are going to need some *serious* help from every corner of the church; but the *men* in particular. We need to get things moved, demolished, built, painted and furnished.

In the long term (3 to 5 years) the manse needs to get spruced up, inside and out, so as to attract the next new minister and her/his family such that they walk up to, and into the building and say to themselves, "YES! *This* is the place we are want to call our home." The manse has good "bones" and is a fine house, but is in need of some TLC. This means the landscaping all around the yard (work has already begun but much more to do), trimming back the pines in front, possibly repairing the back porch, washing the siding, painting the trim, as well as painting the upstairs bedrooms and back stairwell, installing new carpeting, giving serious consideration to remodeling the upstairs bathroom, completing the pantry area (and a small area in the kitchen). To name a just few items for the "To Do" list.

What I'd like to ask of all of you is this: are these ideas or expectations I have for our church reasonable and, *more to the point*, are they shared by all *you* who comprise the congregation? Or is this all in my head and heart and I need to endeavor to let some things go?

Think about it. Pray about it, Let's see where God leads us. - Rev. Mike

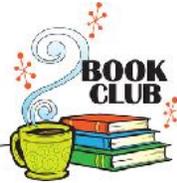
"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether they have enough to complete it?" - Luke 14:28

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, May 8th** at **7 p.m.** in Lorna's Lounge. All women of the church are welcome. If you are able to attend, contact **Linda Potter** at nautilus@twcnyny.org.

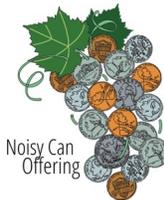
Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, May 28th** at 7 p.m. in Lorna's Lounge to discuss ***Of Mice & Men*** by John Steinbeck with the discussion led by **Ellen Grayson**. Books for the 2023-2024 season will be selected as well. All are welcome.



Noisy Can Mission

Aubrey Boswell and **Julia Andes**, along with **Peggy Andes** and **Michelle Theisen**, went food pantry shopping for **CCP** on March 26th at Canton Price Chopper. Through generous giving by our Presbyterian congregation, we were able to purchase **\$75** of food which included nine bags of **Russet potatoes**, nine bags of **Gala apples** and 9 large cans of **baked beans**.



In May, **personal care items** will be purchased. If you would like to be part of the Noisy Can Youth Missions Team, please contact **Michelle Theisen** at 315-742-2172, with call or text. Everyone is welcome to participate!

CCP Food Pantry Use

March = 206 households with 84 children, 194 adults and 162 seniors. Totals 440 individuals. Of the 206 HH, 6 were new to us and one was an emergency/out of service area case. **COMPARE to:** 210 HH last month and 201 HH a year ago.

Virtual Worship & Fellowship

For live-streaming, fellowship, bulletins, sermons, newsletters, and other resources, **begin by bookmarking the church website:** www.ChurchOnThePark.org. "Click" on the relevant link at the top of the page.

A **live-stream** of the worship service is on the church's YouTube Channel. Go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click on "YouTube Channel." You can choose to subscribe to our channel or simply go to this link each week.

Zoom Fellowship calls happen each Sunday from **11:30 a.m. to Noon** for fellowship only with no format or moderator. If needed, download the ZOOM app ahead of time by clicking on this link (free): <https://zoom.us/download>. Once you have the Zoom app, go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click on "Sunday Zoom Meeting". You will be asked to enter a password which is **3862570** (the phone number of the church). The meeting will automatically begin at 11:30 a.m. & end at 12:45 p.m.

Worship bulletins are posted earlier in the week to the church website for those worshipping virtually through the stream on our YouTube channel. This will allow everyone the opportunity to follow the liturgy, and see the announcements and prayer requests. Go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click on "Sunday Bulletin."

Written sermons continue to be emailed, or snail-mailed, on *Tuesday* to everyone each week; as well as being posted to the church website. Go to www.ChurchOnThePark.org and click on "Written Sermons."

The monthly **Newsletter** will continue to be emailed to most, and snail-mailed to a few; as well as being posted to the church website (click on "Newsletter").



MAY Birthdays

- 2 Rachel Syvertsen
- 4 Matthew Gibson,
Beverly Findley,
Janet Stitt
- 8 Melba Reinke, Mary Christopher,
Bill Parker, Edith Frazer,
Claire Fiese
- 10 Sue Dean, Mike Athanasakis,
Katie Smith
- 11 Barry Walch
- 12 Claire Casey
- 13 Andrew Clearwater Johnson
- 14 Nikko Sheats
- 15 Martha Cole
- 16 Wesley Gayle
- 17 Tucker Catanzaro,
Katelyn Grant, Anna Eller
- 19 Chris Sutherland, Katie Bennett
- 20 Erica Cole
- 21 Rebecca Alexander
- 22 Alina Kuzmicki
- 23 Colleen Grant
- 24 Nicole Holbrook
- 26 Ashley Elliott
- 27 Olivia Bourdette, John Smith



MAY Anniversaries

- 21 Bill & Karen Parker
- 27 Michael & Edith Frazer
- 30 Sean Boutin & Kristin McKie

Deacon's Offering

The Deacon's Offering is the **first Sunday** of every month. This is a vital component of our church's work and mission. Please remember to send along a contribution to the Deacons along with your pledge or regular offering. **Thank you!**



Contact the church office with your birthday so we can keep our list current!

May Lectionary Readings

May 5

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98 1
John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17



May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13 ; John 17:6-19

Day of Pentecost - May 19

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Trinity Sunday - May 26

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Life Story Project

The Life Story Project, a **free event** sponsored by **Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley**, will be held on **Tuesday, May 7th** from **6:30 to 8 p.m.** at the First Presbyterian Church in Canton. Your life is made of **little stories** of the people and events that shaped you, the places you've been along with the love, laughter and tears you've shared. Bring a **notebook** and we will supply **prompts, activities** and **inspiration** to create with word and artwork your Life Story Project.

Space is limited for this free public event. Call Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley at 315-265-3105 to reserve your spot.

May Session Meeting Change

Owing to the regular May date for Session falling on Memorial Day, we will be meeting the following Monday, June 3rd (7 p.m. in the CR)

Prayer Warriors

Would you like to help your neighbor, stretch spiritually and be a part of the mystical movement of the church? We are always looking for new prayer warriors to join **the church**

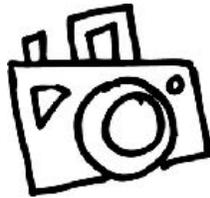
Prayer Chain to offer prayers for folks who are ill, troubled or in need.

If you want to learn more about the prayer chain, call **Rev. Mike** at 386-2570 or **Wanda Renick** at 386-3474.



Photo Directory

Our Photo Directory is no longer available online through the website. If you would like a copy (print or digital), please contact Rev. Mike or the church office and we'd be happy to send one with you. We endeavor to keep the photo directory as up-to-date as possible. If you find that you have been inadvertently omitted, would like to be included or would like a retake, please contact **Rev. Mike**. Updates easily done.



Presbyterian Worship

The next **Partridge Knoll service** is on **May 1st** and will continue through June on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at **11:00 a.m.** You are welcome to join us!



Like Us On Facebook!

The Church On The Park has a **Facebook page** which changes regularly - <https://www.facebook.com/TheFirstPresbyterianChurchonthePark>

New Church Website Coming



Christy and Rev. Mike are working hard at finishing the **NEW Church Website** which is brighter and easier to use. We are switching to a different platform which will allow us to keep the site updated weekly. Stay Tuned!

The Church's email address:

Office@ChurchOnThePark.org

Reverend Mike's email address:

Sermons & Services

Written Sermons in PDF format are now available for viewing or downloading on Monday at www.ChurchOnThePark.org then click on "Written Sermons."

If you'd like to have a copy of the weekly sermon emailed or snail-mailed to you directly, please contact RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.Org.

To view recordings of previous worship services, please subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).

Newsletter Deadline Is The 15th Of The Month

We are still sending out the monthly newsletter! Please submit articles (emailed preferably) to the church office, or directly to the Newsletter Editor, Linda Potter, at:

nautilus@twcny.rr.com

Hello, my name is...

Remember - **Name Tag Sunday** is **May 19th**.

Come early to church and make your own name tag.
Get to know your neighbor.

Youth Acolytes & Liturgists?

Last month Rev. Mike was pleased to welcome the (very impromptu) assistance of **Sebastian Dekay** and **Donovan Crecco** in leading the worship service. This has birthed the idea of welcoming the children of our church to help lead worship on the 3rd Sunday of each/any month (when we also take the Noisy Can Offering) as kids are willing/able.

If any kids are interested, Rev. Mike will get them the readings (Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Scripture) the week leading up to that Sunday. Also, the church has two youth-sized white Acolyte Robes the kids would be welcome to wear (though certainly not necessary). Contact Rev. Mike if interested! (*Acolyte: one who assists a member of the clergy in a liturgical service by performing minor duties. Liturgist: one who leads the liturgy/worship.*)

Can You Help?

Our church is looking to form a team of volunteers to assist the Office for the Aging with their **home delivered meals**. There is a **critical need** for drivers. With a team of volunteers, we can share the duties and make a difference.



There is a need for delivery **on-site** of meals in **Canton** to residents in 35 and 37 Riverside Drive on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Drivers** are needed for delivery of meals in the **DeKalb** area on Mondays and Fridays and in the **Lisbon** area on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Meals are picked up at the Canton Nutrition Site with delivery taking roughly two hours. There is mileage reimbursement and we can select the schedule that best works for us.

If you are interested in volunteering, please text or call **Linda Potter** at 315-229-8886 or email her at nautilus@twc-ny.rr.com.

Session Report

Session met on **March 25th**. A thank you note from **MINC** for a donation to their Emergency Fund was shared. Changes are being made to the **sign** to bring it into code. Names of **new folks** coming to the church were shared along with those in need.

Anna Eller will be ordained as an elder on April 28th. She will chair the Christian Education committee. **Joe Montgomery** is working on the **AED**. The church's **website** is being updated. A \$25,000 grant from the Rock Charitable Fund for repairs to the **steeple roof** was received. Funds from our short term Morgan Stanley account were approved for the purchase of a new office **computer** and **database** for Rev. Mike's computer.

Plans for the **youth group room** renovation were discussed along with remodeling of the **nursery**. A **shredder** for the office is needed. **Stumps** need to be removed from the bushes and trees which Rev. Mike cut down around the manse and church. **Manse updates** were discussed. The application process to use the **park** and **Fellowship Hall** were reviewed. It was noted that shopping will take place soon for food donations to the C&CP Food Pantry with money raised by the **Noisy Can offering**. The **Ham Dinner** will take place on April 28th.

Next meeting is **April 29th**.

Thanks to **Sebastian Dekay** for organizing the toy section at the RS.



Ham Dinner Report

A special thank you to everyone who made our recent Ham Dinner a **success!** Those who **donated** ingredients or money, **worked** on the weekend, or **stopped** in for a meal.

IT all started Saturday morning with the Mac & Slaw Crew. **Christy Dekay, Rosalie Dekay, Rebekah VanderStoep** and **Michelle Theisen** diced and chopped and turned bags of boring cabbage into tasty coleslaw. Meanwhile **Liam Rodee** was measuring, boiling and carefully watching cheese sauce to make the mac and cheese.....as well as effortlessly taking items off high shelves for the old, short girl.

A special shout out to **Sean's Tai Chi school** who graciously placed all the tables for us on Saturday. After that it was a flurry of activity as **Olga Virgil, Barb King, Maria Franklin** and **Sophia Smalling** beautifully decorated the tables.

In the kitchen it was a knife wielding frenzy as **Jim Franklin, Rebekah, Christy, Rosalie, Mark Erickson** and **Ray Erickson** carved the **18 ham butts**. We are still unsure who was named **BUTT Head**...but I am pretty certain it is Jim.

Sunday morning brought weather that was too nice to be in church, but we were off to the races again. **Pat Mace** demonstrated her pie cutting skills as the huge variety of homemade pies poured in. When the doors opened **Christa Lyon** was money changer as **Patience Boswell** and **Whitney LaShomb** staffed the take-out area....and man were they busy! **Aubrey Boswell** showed finesse as she slid pies from plates to take-out containers. Greeting and proficiently serving our dine-in guests were **Susan Akins, Heidi Ames** and Sophia with **Pat McGuire** being the beverage guy.

Ham Dinner - cont.

In the kitchen was **Jean McGuire, Jim, Christy, Rebecca, Liam** and **Rosalie**....doing what the kitchen crew should do, except Jim...**he had to be reminded**.

After that it was time for clean-up and it was amazing: Tables were folded and stacked, food packaged up and dishes done, as everyone pitched in to help! It was truly remarkable. Not only was much work accomplished over the weekend, the atmosphere was warm and inviting....the way I think the atmosphere at a church *should* be.

We do have a couple of take-aways from the weekend: Rebekah is the **Refrigerator Queen** and can fit three rhinos and a hippo in a fridge and still have room for the mustard, and Jim Franklin cannot be trusted with kitchen tongs!

Together we served 40 "Goodwill Dinners" and still profited an amazing **\$1,044.00**...Woo Hoo! **Thanks to all of you who make the church our church!** (And *HUGE* thanks to **Beth Hayes, Ham Dinner Leader!**)

Community Resource

Clarkson University has an Assistive Technology & Resource Education Center which loans out **durable medical equipment** (DME) and **assistive technology** (AT) for those in need in our community. Commonly available items include wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, phone amplifiers and magnifiers. They also accept donations on a space-availability basis (unable to accept respiratory equipment or hospital beds).

To learn more, obtain a loan of DME or AT or to make a donation, contact the center at 315-268-5981 or ATREC@clarkson.edu.

Work On Selleck Room To Begin!

With end of the school year in sight, we'd like to make a big push in **May** and **June** to transform the two existing (and currently unused) rooms on the ground floor of the Christian Education wing into a room for the kids and youth of our church through the proceeds of the sale of land gifted to us by the family of Fred and Helen Selleck. Our goal is to have the new room "operational" come September.

This is an "All Hands On Deck" situation; please consider how you might help this enormously important endeavor for the kids of our congregation, as well as our church and its future.



Are You Able?

Step 1 is to clear out the remaining items and move them to the Conference Room (contact Rev. Mike to help); timeframe: ASAP. **Step 2** is to remove the existing wall (contact **Jim Franklin** to help); timeframe: by mid May. **Step 3** is the construction of a new wall to create an entry corridor from the door near Park Street (we need a crew leader for this!); timeframe: mid June.

Step 4 is to paint the new room, along with the nursery, two coats of primer and two finish coats on ceilings and wall (contact **Pat McGuire** to get on the "Painting Crew"); timeframe: by the end of July. **Step 5** is laying carpet (we already have a quote for carpeting for both the new Selleck Room and Nursery); timeframe: by mid August. **Step 6** is furnishings (kids and parents, we will need your in-put on this, more to follow); timeframe: by the time CS resumes.

Shout It Out!

Shout out and share the word about your kids and grandkids with your church family! Tell us about their involvement with **sports, music, theater** as well as **academic achievements** and anything else that you to shout out!

Send in their accomplishments and achievements in the classroom, on the field and in the community to the church office (315) 386-2570 or office@Church-OnThePark.org

Also, let Rev. Mike know when the kids have a game, recital, performance or award ceremony. Text him at (716) 857-0111 or email him at RevMike@churchonthepark.org.

Welcome To The Table

Given the increasing prevalence of **food allergies** across our society in general, we will be making a two-phase switch to bread suitable for everyone during the celebration of the Lord's Supper (i.e., Communion). Beginning this Sunday, May 2nd, we will be using bread that is **dairy, nut, soy** and **gluten free**. Beginning in June, we will be using bread that is dairy, nut, soy, gluten and **egg free** as well (hopefully, this will just about cover it :-). The Session believes it is **essential**, from both a symbolic and practical perspective, that **everyone** is welcomed to the Lord's Table and that **ALL** are able to participate in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

*Saving
Grace*

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you God for everything.

Kids, Kids, Kids



Lachlan's First Cookie



Wes Is All About Basketball These Days



Colin Excels & Big Bro Hunter Visits Classroom



Emily & Kate At Earth Day



Aubrey & Julia Pantry Shop



Sophia Is A HELPER!



Not Walter's First Cookie



Nico Is 5!

Church School & Nursery



Ordination of Anna Eller (Elder Eller)



Spring 2024 Rummage Sale and Sneak Peek



Spring 2024 Ham Dinner!



Spring 2024 Ham Dinner Continued!





Church & Community Program Bowling Fundraiser

\$1,400.00 was raised
by 7 teams (2 of which
were from our church)
Thank you to all
who helped to support
this important fundraiser!



SIGN(S) OF THE TIMES

We continue to have a ton of fun with the church's new Electronic Messaging Center (i.e., Sign) and continue to learn the "tricks" to make messages clearer and easier to read. The message for the Eclipse (and ensuing "Heavens Proclaim") elicited many smiles in the community, and is an excellent example of the power of the Sign to shift the paradigm in people's minds about just what (the heck) is going on in this particular church. Below are some of the messages we've had running this past month. The sign powers up at 6 a.m. each day and powers down at 9 p.m. (so as to not disturb the neighbors/neighborhood and not be a temptation to late night travelers down Park Street).

Dark Days Are Coming

Revelation 6:12

"I watched as the Lamb broke the sixth seal...
the sun became as dark as black cloth."

Just kidding, enjoy the Eclipse!
(Wear Your Glasses!)

Worship & Church School Begin at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday's
Sermon In-Person and On-line
Nursery Care Provided

"The Dude Abides"

www.ChurchOnThePark.org

APR 21 9:04 AM 38° 315.386.2570

"The Heavens Proclaim The Glory of God."

- Psalm 19:1

(How Cool Was That!?!)

Canton Free Library Storytime

with Miss Val

Toddler Mondays 10:30 a.m.

Baby Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.

Life Story Project

Tuesday, May 7th 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Here At The Church

Bring a notebook to start writing your Life Story.

Call (315) 265-3105
to reserve your spot.

Presented by
Hospice of SLV

There Are
272 Days Remaining
Until Christmas!

Bob's Christmas Countdown

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Elder Ordination ■ 10:00AM Church School ■ 11:00AM Ham Dinner ■ 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	29 ■ 7:00PM Session	30	1 ■ 11:00AM PK Service	2 ■ 6:30PM Choir Practice	3	4
5 Communion Deacon & Food Offering ■ 10:00AM Church School ■ 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	6 ■ 6:30PM Life Story Project	7 ■ 6:30PM Life Story Project	8 ■ 7:00PM Women's Circle	9 ■ 4:15PM C&CP Board Meeting ■ 6:30PM Choir Practice ■ 7:00PM Green Burial Workshop	10 ■ 1:30PM Brunch Set-Up	11
12 Mother's Day Mothers & Others Brunch ■ 10:00AM Church School ■ 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 ■ 6:30PM Choir Practice	17	18
19 Name Tag Sunday Noisy Can Offering ■ 10:00AM Church School ■ 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	20	21	22	23 ■ 5:30PM Deacons Meeting ■ 6:30PM Choir Practice	24	25
26 ■ 9:00AM Trinity Sunday ■ 10:00AM Church School ■ 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	27 ■ 7:00PM Evening Book Group	28	29	30 ■ 6:30PM Choir Practice	31	1

The 1st Presbyterian Church, on the Park
17 Park Street
Canton, NY 13617

Address Service Requested

The Church is charged for every returned Newsletter. If you have moved, or changed a seasonal address, please notify the church office. Thank you.

Mothers & Others Brunch - May 12th

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Rummage Sale Report

Noisy Can Mission

Ham Dinner Report

Youth Acolytes & Liturgists

Work On Selleck Room To Begin!



**The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Canton to reach out to all people and welcome them in celebrating truly the joys, freedoms and responsibilities that come with our faith in God, Christ's unconditional love for us, and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our world.
Through this nurturing Christian Community
we will fully recognize the value of each believer,
humbly forgive ourselves and others, and lovingly embrace God's Grace.**