



The View From The Park

A Newsletter of Faith & Community

December 2025

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

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

Sundays in December

• **Worship Begins At 10:00 a.m.** •

• **December 7th** •

2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion
Kids' Dress Rehearsal after Worship
Deacon & Food Shelf Offering



• **December 14th** •

3rd Sunday of Advent
White Christmas (Sung by
the Men of the Church)
Kids' Christmas Showcase
Church Potluck Lunch
Deacons To Deliver Poinsettias
& Cookies to Homebound



• **December 21st** •

4th Sunday of Advent
Name Tag Sunday
Noisy Can Offering
Service of Lessons & Carols



• **December 28th** •

No Church School
National Call A Friend Day



Rev. Michael P. Catanzaro..... Pastor
Pastor Donna Doig, CLP..... Associate Pastor
Andrea Montgomery..... Church School Director
Mark Darou..... Choir Director & Pianist
Christy Dekay..... Office Coordinator
Emily & Kate Ewy..... Nursery Care Providers
Patience Boswell..... Sexton
Cameron Boswell..... Stream Master
Linda Potter..... Congregational Coordinator

Office Hours: 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Tues. & Thursday

Christmas On The Park

There is a *great* deal happening this month at our church starting with **cookie** baking and decorating for the kids on Saturday, **December 6th** from 2 - 4 p.m.

On the **14th**, we will delight at the Church School **Christmas Showcase** which will be held during the worship service (i.e. no sermon!). **Every child** is invited to participate by playing a musical instrument or wearing a costume (no lines to memorize). **Parents** - contact **Andrea Montgomery** at amq20@yahoo.com or cell/text 315-244-7628 to let her know that your child will be there. Those in costume need to arrive by 9:15 a.m.

Our fabulous **Potluck Lunch** will take place after worship on the **14th**. **Set-up** will take place on **Thursday, December 11th** at **5:45 p.m.** Volunteers also needed to bake **cookies** for December 14th. These will be taken with poinsettias to the homebound by the Deacons.

Worship on **Sunday, December 21st** will be a **Service of Lessons & Carols**, using scripture & song to tell the Christmas story.

Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary in Advent beginning **Sunday, December 14th**. See **pg. 10** to order in memory or honor of a loved one. Order deadline is **December 9th**.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be on Tuesday, December 24th at 7 p.m.

Family News

Thanks to Master **Sean Boutin** for repairs to a broken storm window in FH.

Bill and **Karen Parker** have a new address: 578 SH 11B #37, Potsdam, NY 13676. Bill is still recovering from heart surgery and sends thanks for all the prayers, cards, and support.

Jane Cable would like to thank everyone for the prayers and kindness in support of her and her family on the death of her brother, John Mark, who died peacefully in October 22nd surrounded by loved ones.

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Continued prayers for **Toby Walch** (son of Barry) and his wife, Julie, and their children as Toby continues to heal from a serious bicycle accident. Cards appreciated! 6 Fairway Dr. Scarborough, ME 04074. (See pg. 19)

Bob Fraser is now living with his daughter, **Karen McAuliffe**, and her husband, **Joe**, at 49 Bird Street, Canton NY 13617. Cards welcome. Call ahead to Bob on his cell phone regarding visiting (315) 323-8416.

Prayers for **Colleen Grant** and **Dale** in support of her; **Wayne Miller** facing health challenges (241 Eddy-Pyrites Rd. Canton NY 13617); and **Carolyn O'Connor** living at an assisted living facility outside of Boston (216, 276 Whiting Street, Hingham, MA 02043).

Thanks to **Gordy** and **Michelle Theisen** for donating a new artificial Christmas tree for the sanctuary.

Continued long distance prayers for Jeannie Lewis, a former church member who lives in NH and is the daughter of Elsie Dana, being treated for macular degeneration.

Family News - cont.

On-going prayers for **Lew Shepard** and **Marilyn Coir** in their days; **Rich Denison** who continues to face health concerns, **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); **Nick Scelzi** and **Wanda Renick** residents of the Canton Nursing Home (cards greatly appreciated (United Helpers NH, 205 State Street, Canton, NY 13617).

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

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 10th** at **7 p.m.** in Lorna's Lounge with the topic of "**Hospitality.**" All women of the church are welcome!

*Sowing
Grace*

For the promise of harvest
contained within a seed

we thank you.

For the oak tree
within an acorn,

The bread
within a grain,

The apple
within a pip,

The mystery of nature
gift wrapped
for us to sow,
we thank you.

Farm Family Offering

Reminder that the Farm Family offering started on Sunday, **November 30th** and donations are gratefully accepted throughout **early December**. There are envelopes at church in which you can insert your money.

There are still small farmers earning their living off the land. These are the families to whom our money goes. They may be producing meat, milk, fruits, vegetables, maple syrup, honey, or nursery plants. Together our dollars help to provide a **merrier Christmas** for farm children and their parents.

You can also **mail your donation** (check only-no cash) to: Canton Presbyterian Church, 17 Park Street. Be sure to note for Farm Families on check.

Thank you for making a difference!
Marilyn Rodee-Farm Family Coordinator

Cookie Bakers Needed!

On Sunday, December 14th, the Deacons of our church will be delivering pointsettias and cookies to our homebound.

We are looking for volunteers to bake, with the goal of ending up with a total of **15 dozen cookies**. With a variety of Christmas cookies donated, we can gift an assorted dozen to each person. Extra cookies will be shared with all at the potluck brunch on December 14th.



Please contact **Linda Potter** at nautilus@twcny.rr.com or text her at (315) 229-8886 if you would like to donate (let her know how many dozen you'll be providing and what kind; no nuts please). Cookies can be brought to the church either on **Saturday, December 13th** (can be left in the kitchen) or Sunday morning before or after worship, the **14th**.

December Lectionary Readings

December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 25 - Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
John 1:1-14

December 28

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23



Church Weather Closings Info

In the event of inhospitable weather, notice of the cancellation of our worship service, or the switch to On-Line only, will be emailed to the congregation and listed on WWNY-TV and NCPR radio.



Church Attendance

	In-Person	Stream	CS
November 2	60	28	3
November 9	60	35	6
November 16	52	45	7

Average In-Person Attendance: 57
 Average Live-Stream Attendance: 36
 Average CS Attendance: 5

Treasurer's Report

	Operating	Mission
October 26	\$2,405.00	\$ 170.00
November 2	\$3,668.00	\$ 173.00
November 16	\$6,449.03	\$3,682.00
November 24	\$1,300.00	\$ 450.00
Total:	\$13,822.03	\$4,475.00

Cookies For Kids!

There will be **cookie baking** and **decorating** for the kids of the church (and their parents or grandparents!) on **Saturday, December 6th** from **2 - 4 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Many of these cookies will be delivered to the homebound by the Deacons on December 14th. **Sarah Murphy** is leading this activity and asks that parents text her at (619) 204-9073 so she knows how many to expect.



Stewardship Update

Barry Walch reports that stewardship is going **well** with currently pledged amounts showing **\$130,942** for the General Fund and **\$8,580** for Mission. He also is greatly encouraged that **17** pledging units increased their pledge, some **quite substantially**. He attributes that to the many good things that are happening at our church on the park. There is still time to make **your pledge** for 2026 (and it greatly helps in planning the upcoming budget). Thanks to everyone for your incredible generosity!

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 Nick Dekay Jim Franklin
 JJ Jockel Heidi Ames John Christopher
 Rich Grayson Michelle Theisen Beth Hayes
 Patricia Mace - Elder & Clerk Of Session

Board of Deacons

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

Christy Dekay Ray Erickson Christa Lyon
 Susan Akins Jane Cable Mark Brackett
 Georgia Vose Bob Duda Stacie Olney-LaPierre
 Ray Erickson, Treasurer

Committees

Chairs

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

Facilities Nick Dekay & Joe Montgomery
 Responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property.

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

Nominating B Hayes, JJ Jockel, R Grayson, B Brown
 Responsible for filling Session, Deacons & Offices.

Christian Education Jim Franklin
 Responsible for growth, nurturing & learning.

Worship Rob Ewy & Sarah Melville
 With pastor, responsible for worship.

Communion Pat Mace & Vicki McLain

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

Mission Michelle Theisen & Sarah Melville
 Helping our church, community and world.

Treasurer Mary McGreevy

Financial Secretary Barry Walch

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

Personnel Heidi Ames & Patrick LaPierre

Manse Renovation Committee Jim Franklin,
 Pat Mace, Sarah Melville, Rob Ewy, Joe Montgomery,
 Christy and Nicholas Dekay

Thanks to our Elders & Deacons for their good work!

The Pastor's Report

Ho-Ho-Howdy folks! In this Season of Advent, please know that I'm wishing all of you the blessing of Good Cheer this Christmas.

I'm not sure if it is my age, my profession (and/or duration within), the ghosts of Christmases past, the overwhelming and saccharin commercialization of the season, or the creeping darkness and cloudy days at this time of year (probably a combination of all of the above) but I must confess to a certain lack of cheer regarding the Christmas towards which we are once again relentlessly racing.

Aware of the slippery slope upon which I find myself, I decided it is incumbent upon me, both as a person and a Pastor, to take a breath, create some space, and give myself over to remembering the BIG picture while looking beyond my own very small part in it.

I remember Christmas in my childhood; the magic, the mystery, and the meaning. I remember Christmas morning at my grandmother's house; seeing her filled with joy to be surrounded by family. I remember the grapefruit halves she set out on the breakfast table; with sections pre-cut, sugar sprinkled upon them, and a maraschino cherry on top (I've yet to find a better symbol for the sweet and sour of life, and the care required to savor both together).

I remember our own children, clad in footie pajamas coming down the stairs on Christmas morning, the delight in their eyes and the way they made Linda and me glow in our hearts.

I remember the almost three decades of Christmases spent here among this congregation: the Church School pageants, the pot-lucks, the caramel corn, and the many wonderful people who brought a belonging and fullness of life to our family. I remember singing "Silent Night" by candlelight on Christmas Eve in the sanctuary and, afterward, wishing each family "Merry Christmas" as they departed to celebrate their own traditions and loving relationships.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- John 16:33

I remember delivering gifts and cards at Christmas time to hundreds of families over the decades on behalf of our church as a light in the darkness and as a way to say, "We remember *you*."

Looking back on my life at Christmas, I remember the beauty rather than the bustle. I remember the joy rather than the cloy. I remember the love rather than the labor.

This Christmas, as I look ahead to my life and whatever days are to be given to me as gifts, I remember that come what may, my hope resides in a world being overcome by grace. I remember there is a star to guide, a place in which to find shelter and rest, and the cheer of goodness to sustain me for the journey home.

This year at Christmas, may each of you remember that all is calm and all is bright; and that glories yet stream from heaven afar to all of us here on earth.

Merry Christmas, Rev. Mike

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." - Luke 2:10-11

DECEMBER Birthdays

- 1 Michelle Quinell-Gayle
- 2 Lindsey Frazer
- 3 Jessica Brown, Giselle Kelly
- 9 Ellen Grayson, Brandon Bartley
- 10 Holly Miller, Christa Lyon,
George Repicky
- 11 James Colton
- 12 Brandon Rodee, Georgia Vose,
Rich Miller
- 13 Kenneth Gibson,
Jessica Witherhead
- 14 David Witherhead
- 15 Evan Poole
- 17 Colin Montgomery
- 18 Sarah Melville, Pat McGuire
- 19 Kristin McKie
- 20 Dale Grant
- 21 Mark Erickson,
Lance Erickson
- 23 Faye Bartley
- 25 Fran Miller
- 26 Rance Davis, David Gordon
- 29 Jane Cable
- 30 Janet Favro,
Kathryn (McAuliffe) O'Connell
- 31 Michael Witherhead

DECEMBER Anniversaries

- 13 Pierre & Hilde Nzuah
- 22 Gerald & Beverly Findley
- 23 Kenneth & Mary Garwood

Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 10th** at **7 p.m.** in Lorna's Lounge with the topic of **"Hospitality."** All women of the church are welcome!

Church Website

Go to www.churchonthepark.org or scan this QR code to see the latest sermon, church calendar, link to our YouTube Channel and much more!



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

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.

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").

Way To Go!

Hats off to **Sarah Murphy** who recently completed two rounds of classes at the Canton Free Library to teach American Mahjong to members of the community (including Mary Christopher and Nancey Brackett). Here is Sarah with one of the happy participants (Pat White, pianist at Brick Chapel).



Session Report

Session met on October 27th. The **budget meeting** will take place on December 15th.

Rev. Mike reported that at the **manse** he has pulled and cut back **weeds**, organized the **attic** and wired it so there are **lights** throughout. The cost and procedure for background checks was shared. It was noted that someone has been stuffing toilet paper rolls into the toilets. There is a need to be aware of who is using the bathrooms. It was approved to purchase a Blink subscription for video feeds from the cameras in the building.

Jim Franklin will look into acquiring toys for the youth group room. Signatories for the bank accounts are complete.

Five people attended the recent new member class. The **Fall Bazaar** raised **\$2,367.35**. A revised copy of the church's financial policy will be emailed to the Session members. **Sixty** people were served communion in October. **Thirty-one** Bibles have been purchased for children with their names engraved on the cover. They will be given to the children on **November 16th**. The music director position was discussed.

Pledge Sunday is November 2nd. **Facilities Committee** reported that there are doors to be installed at the manse. The **Manse Committee** will do a walk-through on November 16th.

The **Nominating Committee** will be **Beth Hayes** as chair with **JJ Jockel**, **Rich Grayson** and **Barb Brown** from the congregation and **Bailey** and **Derby Murphy** as the youth representatives. The baptism of **Stella Ryan Russ** on October 12th was approved.

Next meeting is November 24th.

Student News

Congratulations to our High School Fall athletes who competed in three sports, won two Section X championships, and made one state playoff appearance:

Aubrey Boswell and **Gwen LaPierre** (Canton Modified Volleyball), **Maria Franklin** (Canton JV Volleyball), **Emily Ewy** (Potsdam Varsity Volleyball), **Hannah Ames**, **Daphne LaPierre**, **Kaitlyn Holbrook** and **Natasha Rossiter** (Canton Varsity Soccer-Section X Champs and NYS Playoffs), **Harper Elvy** (Canton Varsity Swimming-Two personal bests in 200 yard individual medley and 100 yard butterfly in Section X meet),



Kate Ewy (Potsdam Varsity Swimming-Two personal bests in 100 yard freestyle and 100 yard breaststroke in Section X meet and Section X Team Champs).

Congratulations to our following High School musicians for being selected to the NYSSMA Zone 5 Allstate musical groups: **Maria Franklin** (tenor sax, Modern Band), **Kate Ewy** and **Natasha Rossiter** (clarinet, Band), and **Emily Ewy** (cello, Orchestra). Our former music director, Dr. Meg Dissinger, directed the 100+ member choir at the NYSSMA concert held at the Crane School of Music on November 15th.

Winter Farmers' Markets

On Friday, **December 19th** from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, our church's Fellowship Hall will serve as host site for a **Winter Farmers' Market** presented by GardenShare. All are encouraged to stop by and support local farmers, bakers, crafters, and their families as you shop for **holiday meals**, stock up your **pantry** for the winter and maybe even find a locally made **gift** for someone special.

Prayer Warriors

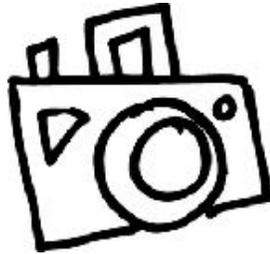
Would you like to help your neighbor, stretch spiritually and be a part of the mystical movement of the church? We are always looking for new prayer warriors to join **the church Prayer Chain** to offer prayers for folks who are ill, troubled or in need.

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



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 to 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 **December 3rd** and will continue through the winter (except January) on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at **11:00 a.m.**



Like Us On Facebook!

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

New Church Website Live



Christy and Rev. Mike have finished the **NEW Church Website** which is brighter and easier to use. We have switched to a different platform which will allow us to keep the site updated weekly (i.e. calendar)

The Church's email address:
Office@ChurchOnThePark.org

Reverend Mike's email address:
RevMike@ChurchOnThePark.org

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 **December 21st**.

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

Luke 2:8-20



Now in that same region
there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid, for see,
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which
the Lord has made known to us.”

So they went with haste and found
Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.
When they saw this, they made known
what had been told them about this child,
and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them,
and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The
shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen,
just as it had been told them.





In Memory and Honor of Family, Friends & Loved Ones

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia through the church (**cost \$20**), please fill out the **order form** below.

Please return order form and payment to
First Presbyterian Church, 17 Park Street, Canton NY 13617
by **December 9th at Noon.**
(The deadline to place our order with White's Flowers.)

You are welcome to provide your own plant; however, we will still need the information regarding your memorial for the bulletin insert by **December 9th** as well.

(Please pick up your Poinsettia following the Christmas Eve Service, or earlier, so you may enjoy it at home.)

You may also email your order to office@churchonthepark.org and send payment after.

Name: _____

In memory or in honor of (please indicate which):

Red #: _____ White #: _____

Cash: _____ Check: _____



PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 9th, 2025.

SIGN(S) OF THE TIMES – THE MONTH'S MESSAGES

Good Luck Lady Bears
At the NYS Class B
Soccer Quarterfinals
Go Natasha, Kaitlyn,
Daphne & Hannah

Winter Farmers' Market
This Friday
@ the Church
Produce, Meat, Maple, Honey
Baked Goods and More!
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Support The
Church and
Community Program
Giving Tree

Helping Kids, Families & Seniors at Christmas

"What if today,
we were just grateful
for everything?"

- Charlie Brown

Holiday Of Lights
Santa In The Park
Cookies & Cocoa
In The Church
This Friday 6 p.m.

Talk is cheap,
voting is free;
take it to
the polls.

- Nanette L. Avery

Not voting
is not a protest.
It is a surrender.

- Keith Ellison

Canton Central Fall Play
"Witches!? In Salem!?"
This Friday and Saturday
7:30 p.m. @ The HS
Come Out And Support The Kids

The "Greening" of the Church!



Sebastian, Christy, Emily & Mark



Nick, Abby, Mark, Emily & Tibbs



Rob, Emily, Marshall & Christy



Marshall & Bailey



Erin & Jean



Pat, Marilyn, Nick, Christy & Pat

Thanks To All Who Helped!



Arvilla



Sebastian, Abby & Tibbs



Derby & Marilyn



Hunter & Marshall



Tibbs & Patience



Mark



Special Thanks
To Beth & Bob
(aka Two Peas in a Pod)
For the fabulous
coffee hour!!!

Birthday Surprise For Rev. Mike



Thanks to everyone who “put on their colors” to help surprise Rev. Mike for his 61st birthday (he never saw it coming)! It took a fair bit of planning, and a whole lot of cooperation, but it was a ton of fun to pull it off. “It was a dream come true,” said Rev. Mike, “a whole sanctuary filled with parishioners dressed in tie-dye.”



Al & Rita
(Photo send by daughter Cheryl who said, “I’ve never even seen my Dad in a T-shirt, let alone in a Tie-Dye!”)



Hunter, Katie, Claire & Marshall joined in the fun on the stream



Dale & Colleen thought it was a hoot and are all in for next year

“Put on your colors and run come see, everyone’s saying the music for free.”

- David Crosby

The B-I-B-L-E, Yes That's The Book For Thee

Last month our church provided Gift Bibles (NRSV) to 31 kids of our church, each embossed with their name on the cover, along with a bookmark. Special thanks to Michelle Theisen who took this on as a personal project (Michelle & Rev. Mike are delivering Bibles to those who have not yet received their Bible).



Hannah K. Ames
Lee J. Ames
Sarah E. Ames
Ben L. Bartley
Aubrey K. Boswell
Cameron K. Boswell
Rosalie A. Dekay

Sebastian L. Dekay
Alina V. Kuzmicki
Harper R. Elvy
Luke H. Elvy
Emily G. Z. Ewy
Katherine E. Z. Ewy
Maria A. Franklin

Wesley Q. Gayle
Kaitlyn M. Holbrook
Kirsten A. Holbrook
Matthew C. Holbrook
Anastasia L. Kelly
Giselle A. Kelly
Daphne P. LaPierre

Gwen A. LaPierre
Colin R. Montgomery
Bailey B. Murphy
Derby M. Murphy
Andrea M. Potter
Darren T. Potter
Jeremy D. Potter



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light unto my path." - Psalm 119:105

Church and Community News

Update from the Director, Connie Jenkins

Overview: November so far has been a roller coaster of information and happenings related to SNAP. As during the last two years, our pantry numbers continue to rise. Whatever food we got from Walmart or donations, as well as our Food Bank deliveries, was gone in a week. We're already seen a lot of new people needing food, and former pantry families are rushing back after being away. But good people have rushed to donate food and money, and with SNAP not available, Gov. Hochul provided state funds to give to Food Bank programs so we pantries can have more money to get food from the food bank.



Unlike COVID: This is not a food supply shortage. It's a financial shortage. Gov. Hochul directed state money to food bank programs that we buy from, so we food providers all got a boost in our FBCNY award/budget. We've been awarded \$10,000 that *must* be used by the end of February! That's awesome. I've already placed a huge order for Nov.12 to boost what we have and to get other items that I've avoided due to cost.

We'll still need big food donations and will likely need to buy some food locally that we can't get from the food bank, but overall, this is wonderful.

Looking Forward: The caveat here is, there's no indication this crisis will be over in February, and other fires are igniting (Medicare, health insurance, Social Security) that will affect CCP. In the short run, we're well positioned and we have some breathing room to strengthen ourselves better for the long run. I have plans for some new fundraisers, we've had traditional and new friends step up to help us, and I'm working to capture some lost or unrealized opportunities for food. I truly believe we can come out of this stronger.

PANTRY STATS 2025

AUGUST: 216 HH, 457 individuals. This includes 11 New households and 2 emergency food cases. **Compare this to** 225 HH/419 people a year ago, and 241 HH/506 people last month.

SEPTEMBER: 213 HH 455 individuals. This includes 7 new households and 1 emergency food case. **Compare this to** 198 HH/439 people a year ago.

OCTOBER: 226 HH/472 individuals. This includes 11 new households, 4 emergency food cases and 2 homeless or dislocated people. **Compare this to** 219 HH/419 people a year ago.

A few Giving Tree Tags are available on the table in the foyer, or call the church office .

Celebrating Stella's Baptism



Rev. Mike, Richard, Stella & Heather



Grandparents Karen & Mark



Stella & Dad Richard



Sisters Keegan (L) & Harlie (R)
Mom Heather & Stella

We were delighted that Stella's Great- Grandmother Joanne could join us on the stream all the way From Downtown Richville!

Life In A Small Church



Pat, Linda & Faye got fancied up for Tie-Dye Sunday



Jock, Rev. Mike, Nancy, Georgia, Christa & Linda help celebrate Wanda's 97th Birthday!!!



Maria playing Tenor Sax in the HS Modern Band

We invite and greatly welcome all photo submissions for the "Life In A Small Church" section of the monthly newsletter.



Congrats to Drew and the LeMoyne College Rugby Team for winning the Regional Championship



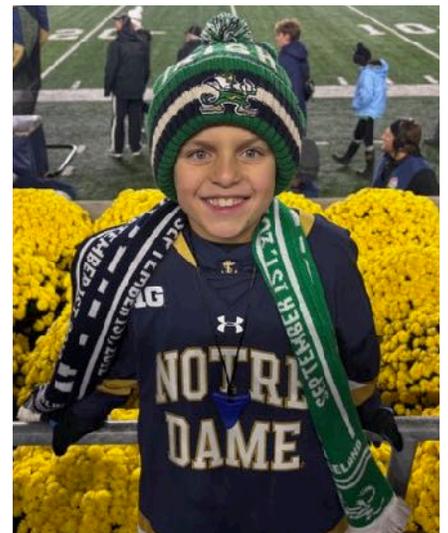
Before the start of worship Rita, and everyone present, hoisted a 23# cooler of hams as a sermon illustration.



Rev. Mike & Linda paid a surprise visit to Toby at his home in Scarborough ME. Toby is a child of our church and was on the PNC that called Mike and Linda to our church. Toby thanks everyone for the cards, prayers, and good wishes.



Sam and Dad Micah attended the Navy vs Notre Dame game in SB



Yeah, he was pretty happy!



As part of the St. Catherine of Siena Academy's All Saint celebration Sully went as St. Joseph and Bailey as St. Bridgid



(L) Rev. Mike caught a (small) Lake Trout on vacation (every fish is fun).



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Holiday Of Lights!



Sophia (mom, Whitney, in the Frosty suit)



Emily (friend Avery in Rudolph suit)



Santa Has Come To Town (er...the Park!)

Each year our church partners with and supports the Holiday of Lights Committee to host Santa and his helpers in the Park, and to serve hot cookies & cocoa in the church's Fellowship Hall.



On Dancer, on Vixen, on Dan and on Bob!

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 1st Sunday of Advent Farm Family Offering New Member Class 11:15AM Church Fellowship Zoom Meeting	1	2 1:30PM Church Office Open	3 11:00AM PK Service	4 1:30PM Church Office Open 6:30PM Choir Practice	5	6 2:00PM Kids Cookie Making
7 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion Deacon & Food Offering Kids Rehearsal After-Worship	8 8 Newsletter Order Deadline 1:30PM Church Office Open	9	10 7:00PM Women's Circle	11 1:30PM Church Office Open 4:15PM C&CP Board Meeting 5:45PM Potluck Set-Up 6:30PM Choir Practice	12	13
14 3rd Sunday of Advent Kids Christmas Showcase Potluck Lunch 11:15AM Deacons Meeting	15 15 Newsletter Deadline	16 1:30PM Church Office Open	17	18 1:30PM Church Office Open 6:30PM Choir Practice	19 10:00AM Winter Farmers' Market	20
21 Name Tag Sunday Nolsy Can Offering Service of Lessons & Carols 11:00AM Manse Committee Meeting	22	23 1:30PM Church Office Open	24 Christmas Eve 7:00PM Candlelight Service	25 Christmas 1:30PM Church Office Closed	26	27
28 Nat Call A Friend Day No Church School	29 29 7:00PM Session	30 1:30PM Church Office Open	31 31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day 1:30PM Church Office Closed 6:30PM Choir Practice	2	3 3